FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

ROSENBERG/SOBEL

SUBJECT COMMITTEE

FILE NO. 100-107111

VOLUME NO. BULKY

SERIALS 1B 114 ONLY

NOTICE

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FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: [redacted]

New York Field Division

2-24-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE #100-107111-1B

Date Property Acquired:

[redacted] b7D

Source From Which Property Acquired:

Chicago See serial [redacted] b7d

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit:

Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and
Efforts Made to Dispose of Same:

Evidence and information Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and
Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

114. Exhibits 1 through 20 as described in Chicago letter to New York dated 1-29-53. Subm. 2-24-53 by SA J.A. Harrington.

13 Exhibits 13, 14, 19, 20 destroyed, all other duplicates disposed of.
14
19
20

Field File #:

100-107111-1B57
SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
FEB 26 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1	Poster Re: Rosenberg Electrocution	✓		
2	Letter from Chicago Committee	✓		
3	Letter from Chicago Committee	✓		
4	Letter from Chicago Committee	✓		
5	Registration Blank	✓		
6	Exempted		✓ b7D	
7	Letter from Chicago Committee	✓		
8	Rent Register	✓		
9	Missing	—	—	Missing from File
10	Certificate of Authority for Organization	✓		
11	Letter from Chicago Committee	✓		
12	Letter from South Side	✓		
13	Destroyed	—	—	Destroyed
14	Destroyed	—	—	Destroyed
15	Missing	—	—	Missing from File
16	Flyer	✓		
17	Letter Re: Rosenberg Case	✓		
18	Flyer	✓		
19	Destroyed	—	—	Destroyed
20	Destroyed	—	—	Destroyed

PROTEST THE AMERICAN DREYFUSS CASE

STOP the Execution of the Rosenbergs

A young American Jewish couple, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, parents of two small children, have been sentenced by a Judge of the Federal District Court in New York to die in the Electric chair—the first Americans in history to receive the Death penalty for alleged treason. The frame-up charge against the Rosenbergs is that they allegedly gave information to the Russians during World War II—at a time when the Russians were our allies!

They were convicted on the most flimsy type of hearsay evidence. The case is now pending on appeal—and the Sentence can still be reversed if you come to the Protest Meeting—

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6—8 P.M.

TEMPLE JUDEA, 1227 INDEPENDENCE BLVD.

★ ★ HEAR ★ ★

WILLIAM A. REUBEN, Correspondent of the National Guardian

RABBI SAMUEL TEITELBAUM, of the Hillel Foundation

REVEREND DOROTHY BRANCH, Douglas Park Community Forum

SIDNEY L. ORDOWER, Chicago Council of Labor Unity

ATTORNEY MICHAEL F. TUOMEY, Chairman of the evening

Also: Timely, Stirring Dramatization—"The **13th JUROR"**

Admission Free

Auspices: 6th Congressional District, PROGRESSIVE PARTY, 166 W. Washington St.

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

June 11, 1952

Chicago Committee
946 N. McClurg St.
Chicago 10, Illinois Avenue
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

[illegible] Yet [illegible] and [illegible] before, for [illegible] freedom.

Recently [illegible] Jewish couple, parents of two small children, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were sentenced to die in the electric chair for allegedly passing atomic secrets to Russia. Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison for allegedly aiding the sentence of death is a grave one, never before imposed for such an alleged crime. Your support is important. The prosecution's case is seriously doubtful as to the substantial nature of the evidence. Enclosed you will find a statement of facts on this case.

In many areas of the country, profound anxiety and indignation has been expressed at this [illegible] justice and [illegible] questioning and discussion has been aroused. Throughout our major cities people have organized committees to secure justice in the Rosenberg case. Rabbi Wise stated emotionally in the Chicago Sentinel, February [illegible], 1952, when Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were condemned to death for allegedly giving secret information to Russia, "I am convinced the verdict of guilty is not justified."

In the interest of all Americans, in the interest of our [illegible] of justice not being violated by a [illegible] trial, we must guarantee the reversal of the conviction to the first March sentence imposed by Judge Kaufman in such a short time.

Your presence is urgently needed at the organizing conference of the Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.

Date: Tuesday, June 17th, 8 P.M.

Place: Hamilton Hall, 201 South Dearborn St.

We are confident that you will have much to contribute to the successful formation of a Chicago Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Nelson Algren

SPONSORS

[illegible]

AMICUS BRIEF in the ROSENBERG CASE

WE BELIEVE that the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Morton Sobell on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage, which resulted in their sentences to the Rosenberg and 30 years to Sobell, violated the guaranteed rights of Americans which all Americans have a right to expect under the Constitution.

WE BELIEVE that the prosecution and trial judge permitted fear and prejudice to dominate the trial by [illegible] and by [illegible] which [illegible] the rights of Sobell and by [illegible] and by [illegible] to them [illegible] and [illegible] in Korea [illegible] tribunal and by [illegible] to them [illegible] and [illegible] in Korea.

WE BELIEVE that vicious political and social pressures have [illegible] in our courts, and [illegible] the American [illegible] the rights of all Americans.

WE BELIEVE that the inclusion of our names in the Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court of the United States, demonstrating that the rights and [illegible] have been violated and that a new trial be ordered based on Constitutional guarantees of impartiality and fairness in accordance with the best traditions of American justice.

[illegible]

Please complete: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, 23 West 26th Street, New York 10, N. Y. MU 5-3174

Name of person (organization) to be [illegible]

Address [illegible] City and State [illegible] Organization [illegible]

Signature [illegible]

AMICUS BRIEF in the ROSENBERG CASE

Chicago Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

NORTH CLARK STREET
Second Floor
CHICAGO 10, ILLINOIS

CHICAGO
ILLINOIS
1952

BLEYAS
KEEP
PARKS

STATES
POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

Order of R R Telegraphers
220 Dearborn St
Chicago
Ill.

WE ARE UNDER FIRE

HEAR THE EAGLE ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1952
8:00 P.M.

WE ARE UNDER FIRE

HEAR THE EAGLE ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1952
8:00 P.M.

Chicago Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

246 North Clark Street
Second Floor
Chicago 10, Illinois
Telephone [illegible]

Nelson Algren
[illegible]

Jo Grant
Executive Secretary

August 6, 1952

SPONSORS
[illegible]

Dear Friend:

As you only too well know, we are living in perilous and hazardous times which require more than ever alertness on our part for the preservation of our civil heritage of freedom.

When Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for allegedly conspiring to commit espionage, a profound indignation and alarm was expressed at this miscarriage of justice and much discussion has been aroused. Rabbi Fred Neulander unequivocally in the Chicago Sentinel of February 7, 1952, when Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for allegedly giving secret information to a navy spies, condemned the verdict. "I am certain that Judge Kaufman's decision will be found unjust if not illegal."

A group of Midwest personnel meeting in Chicago July 6th decided to call a Midwest Regional Conference on the Rosenberg Case in Chicago on August 17th. Enclosed you will find a call to the conference. We urge you to send representative observers to the conference from your committee or organization. Interested individuals also are invited to attend. This conference will enable us to exchange our experiences in popularizing the nature of the Rosenberg Case and to the same time [illegible] a program to step up the campaign for [illegible].

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Fill out the registration blank on the back of the conference call and mail it in immediately. There is no registration charge.

If you desire additional calls or further information on the conference, please contact our office by mail or phone.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Grant

Jo Grant
Executive Director

We are on the threshold of momentous events in the Rosenberg Case

Many scores of thousands of Americans have signed the petition for a new trial. Feelings of great concern are being expressed by the memberships of civil liberties and Jewish organizations. A Negro ministerial association has just condemned the death sentence. Newspapers the world over have begun to headline the case.

This ferment has broken across religious, political and social lines. Orthodox Jews and devout Catholics, progressives and conservatives, retired army generals and farmfolk are all to be found among those who believe that Ethel and Julius' incarceration in the death house is a stain upon our country's honor and traditions.

The time has come to assemble these sentiments in the most effective possible ways, to exchange experiences and ideas in the dissemination of information on the case, and to fashion a new concerted pace for the campaign for a new trial.

We call upon all organizations of the Midwest, trade unions, religious groups, civil liberties associations, national groups, [illegible] and individuals to participate in

MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

Auspices: Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

Time: Sunday, August 17, 1952

Place: Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Rm. 538, Chicago

PROGRAM:

9:30 A.M. Registration

10:00 A.M. Opening Session
The Rosenberg Case
Discussion

11:30 A.M. The Delegates Report
Report on progress of campaign for Rosenberg Case in their Midwest
Discussion

1:30 P.M. Lunch

2:30 P.M. The Campaign for a New Trial
National and International Reports
Discussion

3:00 P.M. What Is to Be Done
Discussion of plans for step-up campaign for new trial
Freedom for Ethel Rosenberg

5:00 P.M. Adjournment

Sponsors: Martial Sigl, Nelson Algren, Dr. Herbert Aptheker, Irwin Van Aken, Dr. W. Bolt, Dudley Rex, Joseph M. Evans, Rabbi Louis D. Gross, Shirley Graham, Stanley Kempley, Dean Hugh Ryan, Unitarian Hon. Lloyd Lowette, Captain Hugh Mulzac, Mildred L. Omlie, Rabbi G. George Fox, Rev. Paul W. Chase and many others.

FILL OUT REGISTRATION BLANK ON REVERSE SIDE AND MAIL

REGISTRATION BLANK

Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
346 North Clark Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago 10, Illinois

Please Register me as a [illegible] to the Midwest Conference on the Rosenberg Case.

Name

Address

City and State

Phone

Organization

Office Held

"I CONDEMNED THE VERDICT..."

When Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were condemned to death they [illegible] secretly giving secret information to enemy [illegible] and [illegible] the Soviet Union.

—RABBI GEORGE FOX, Chicago [illegible] Bulletin, [illegible] 7, 1952

From your death comes the words, "Death sentence too terrible." Every [illegible] will be shattered by this tragedy.

—JEWISH DAILY FORWARD, April 5, 1952

We [illegible] that [illegible] will be found that [illegible] the death sentence.

—JEWISH DAY, March 31, 1952

[illegible] American jurisprudence [illegible] the death sentence and despise the judge who proclaimed it.

—CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE, [illegible] 7, 1952

THESE ARE AMONG THE THOUSANDS CALLING FOR A NEW TRIAL FOR THE ROSENBERGS AND MORTON SOBELL

Judge Norval E. Harris, Indiana
Dr. Gene Weltfish, New York
Rabbi Franklin Cohn, California
Rev. Frank Glenn White, New York
Dorothy Day, editor Catholic Worker, N.Y.
Prof. H. G. Landau, U. of Chicago, Chicago
Rabbi Ben Zion Bergman, California
Dr. Katherine Dodd, Arkansas

a call TO A CONFERENCE

Chicago Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

179 W. Washington St.
Room 1006, Chicago 2, Ill.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

September [illegible], 1952

SPONSORS

[illegible]

Dear Friend:

We were indeed happy to have your presence at the Midwest Conference on the Rosenberg Case. The conference was inspiring to all of us and we are confident that all of us shall go forward with greater determination in our work.

The minutes of the Midwest Conference will be mailed to you in a few days. We regret the delay in this but we are sure you will understand that this delay is due solely to the inadequate staff and manpower to put out material as fast as we would like to have it done.

Please note the new address of the Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case:

179 West Washington Street - Room 1006
Chicago 2, Illinois - Phone: State 2-8610

We are preparing an exhibit for our office of publications, newspaper clipping and publicity given the Rosenberg Case and Rosenberg Committees, etc., and other material put out by Committees in the Rosenberg Case in the Midwest. If you have any material that you would like to have displayed in our exhibit, please send it to us.

Remember we have a tremendous amount of work to do. The far-short of your goal of signatures on the Amnesty Petition is no more than a few short of the $10,000 that must be raised by citizens in the Midwest to pay for the expenses of the trial for the Rosenbergs and the fears of the Rosenbergs and Sobell and others.

We would like to have your suggestions for a date for the Rosenberg Week. Let us know what activities you are planning. No matter how small they may be they add up. We shall keep you informed of meetings and other activities in Chicago.

Yours very sincerely,

J. Grant

Jo Grant
Executive Secretary

FROM

TO

ONE LEAF

RENT REGISTER

OWNER

ADDRESS

DATE	PLAN	LOCATION	NO.	RENT	PAID	CHARGE	CHG.	PAID	BAL.

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN CHICAGO

RENT REGISTER

OWNER

ADDRESS

TENANT	LOCATION						

CHICAGO COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE — *Unincorporated Organization*

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY FOR ORGANIZATION

AUG 21 1952

To: AMALGAMATED TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

I, Jo Granat, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected and qualified Executive Secretary and the keeper of the records and seal of Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, an organization, and that at a meeting of the members thereof, convened and held in accordance with law and the by-laws of said organization on the _____ day of _____, 19__, the following persons were duly elected, have qualified and are now acting as officers of the said organization in the capacities set before their respective names:

Title	*Name*
Chairman	Gertrude S. Noyes
Secretary	Jo Granat
Treasurer	Ann Markin

and that the genuine signatures of said officers appear on the signature cards dated August 21, 1952 furnished to Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank.

I do further hereby certify that the by-laws, the rules and regulations, or the resolutions of said organization provide:

That Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank is an authorized depositary of the funds of said organization; that checks, drafts, and other orders for the payment of money payable or indorsed to or to the order of or belonging to said organization may be indorsed in its name by any of its officers, agents or employees and deposited for its credit with Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank, and that indorsements for deposit may be made in writing or by a stamp and without designation of the person making any such indorsement, and that every such indorsement shall constitute a guaranty by said organization to Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank of all prior indorsements on such check, draft or other order; and

That each of the officers of said organization is authorized to give instructions in regard to the handling or delivery of any negotiable or non-negotiable papers or documents involved in any transaction for or on behalf of said organization; and

That Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank is authorized to pay out funds on deposit with it from time to time to the credit of said organization, upon any and all checks, drafts and orders drawn upon said depositary and signed in the name of said organization by any two (one, two, etc.) of the following: Gertrude Noyes, Jo Granat, Ann Markin

(Use blank spaces for titles of signing officers)

including any and all checks, drafts and orders drawn to the individual order of any officer signing or countersigning the same or tendered for deposit to the individual account of any such officer; and that such officer or officers so authorized to sign are also authorized to handle all other business in the name or for the account of said organization, and in connection therewith to sign orders and issue instructions to Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank, which orders and instructions may contain such terms and conditions as such officer or officers shall deem proper.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name as Executive Secretary and have caused the seal of said organization to be hereunto affixed this _____ day of _____, 19__

AFFIX SEAL BELOW: ☑ SAID ORGANIZATION DOES NOT HAVE A SEAL

X Jo Granat
Secretary

Attest: X Gertrude S. Noyes
President Chairman

Approved:

_____
_____
_____

To be signed by the Retiring Officers

370 OPMS 11-50 M

MAIL STATEMENTS: HOME ADDRESS / ~~BUSINESS ADDRESS~~

DECLARATION OF OFFICER ON FILE

Name c/g JO. GRANAT

Address 4625 Drexel Blvd (15)

Business Td MI 2-5559

Production c/g 35705 = granat

Remarks

Account Arranged for by

MAIL STATEMENTS HOME ADDRESS

Name S. JO. GRANAT

Address 4625 DREXEL BLVD. (15)

Business Td MI-3-5559

Production S 35705- GRANAT

Remarks

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES OF

Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

TO THE AMALGAMATED TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, CHICAGO

DECLARATION OF OFFICERS IN FILE

Abe Meeropol — President

Vice Pres't

Vice Pres't

Jo Grant — Secretary

Anne Markson — Treasurer

AUGUST 19, 1952

AUG 21 '52

Date August 21, 1952

CHICAGO COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES OF

Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

TO THE AMALGAMATED TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, CHICAGO

DECLARATION OF OFFICERS IN FILE

President

Vice Pres't

Vice Pres't

Jo Grant — Secretary

Anne Markson — Treasurer

NEW CARD IN FILE

AUG 21 '52

Date August 19, 1952

SIGNATURE REQUIRED Two

CHICAGO COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

**Chicago Committee
To Secure Justice In
The Rosenberg Case**

179 W. Washington St.
Room 1006
Chicago 2, Illinois
STate 2-8610

Nelson Algren
Honorary Chairman

Jo Granat
Executive Secretary

SPONSORS
(Partial List)

[illegible] Alman
Dr. Herbert Aptheker
[illegible]
Dr. Edward K. Barsky
[illegible]
[illegible] Byrne
[illegible]
Rabbi Abraham [illegible]
[illegible]
Marjorie DiSilva
Dr. Katherine Dodd
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
[illegible]
Waldo Frank
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Prof. Spencer [illegible]
Hon. Robert Morss Lovett
Dr. Bernard [illegible]
Dr. [illegible] Marshall
John T. McManus
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Elizabeth Todd
[illegible]
[illegible]
Dr. Gene Weltfish

September 22, 1952

Dear Friend:

RE: CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 17th MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

Please note the following errors in the minutes of the August 17th Midwest Conference on the Rosenberg Case:

1. Page 5, paragraph 2.

Mr. Berman of Cincinnati was an observer to the conference, not a delegate. (Note: No distinction was made between delegates and observers in the minutes since this was a conference open to all persons interested in the Rosenberg Case).

The mailing referred to in this paragraph was sent out by the Progressive Party.

2. Page 7, paragraph 1 (continued from page 6):

It is incorrectly stated that the ACLU is "doing all the work and has agreed to handle the case". The speaker from Cincinnati stated that they will seek the cooperation of ACLU in Cincinnati on the case.

3. Page 11, ATTENDENCE AT CONFERENCE:

It is incorrectly stated that there were 22 persons from Cincinnati attending the conference. There were 2 people from Cincinnati in attendance.

Please make the above corrections in your copy of the minutes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
Chicago Committee to Secure Justice
in the Rosenberg Case

Jo Granat
Jo Granat
Executive Secretary

SOUTH SIDE COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

December 22, 1952

Dear Friends,

Will the coming of the New Year be overshadowed with the impending death of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg? The execution date of these two young people, charged with the conspiracy to commit espionage, is set for the week of January 12th.

The conscience of the nation is sorely disturbed by this unusual and savage sentence. It is not now a question of guilt or innocence. It is a question, especially for those who may think the Rosenbergs guilty, of taking their lives on a count for which no others have been so punished.

This now becomes a personal question for each of us. As citizens, we have the right to petition our President to exercise executive clemency in favor of the Rosenbergs. Many leading people in our community have already taken action, as you can see from the enclosed advertisement. If you agree that this tragic mistake must be avoided, join with us in taking the following steps immediately:

1. WRITE OR WIRE THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, TO GRANT EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

2. WRITE OR WIRE FEDERAL JUDGE IRVING R. KAUFMAN, FEDERAL BUILDING, FOLEY SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY, TO GRANT JUDICIAL CLEMENCY.

Judge Kaufman has the right to alter his sentence of death and may do so if he is convinced of a public desire for such action.

Make these your messages of good will for the New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

Sylvia Fischer
Acting Chairman

P.S. The days for the Rosenbergs are numbered. We still have much to do, but little money with which to do it. Can you help? Send your contributions to P. O. Box 1-263, Chicago, Ill.

67D

Must they die, Mr. President?

In the Death House of Sing Sing prison a young American couple, parents of two small children, face execution within a few short weeks. President Truman can save Julius and Ethel Rosenberg by an act of mercy — by granting executive clemency such as he did a few weeks ago for a man who had tried to assassinate him.

THE FACT IS . . .

- The maximum sentence for a charge such as they face has never been more than several years imprisonment.
- Even for treason — a much graver crime — no person in the history of the United States has ever been executed in time of peace.

HEAR: The Case for Clemency

REVEREND BERNARD M. LOOMER
Dean of Divinity School, University of Chicago

RABBI S. BURR SAMPOL

HARRY KALVEN
Associate Professor of Law, University of Chicago

MRS. FANNY TARG

Wednesday, November 19th — 8:00 p.m.
1174 East 57th Street

SOUTH SIDE COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS — 20 Nov 1953 CHICAGO

December 19, 1952

Re: THE ROSENBERG CASE

Dear Colleague:

Knowing of your intense interest in the sound administration of justice and the zealous guarding of human rights, we should like to know whether we could depend upon you to join other leading Illinois lawyers in a joint petition to President Truman for executive clemency for Julius Rosenberg and Ethel Rosenberg, who have been sentenced to death by the United States District Court for conspiracy to violate the federal espionage act. After an examination of the entire record, we entertain the gravest doubt as to the Rosenbergs' guilt. The reasons therefor are as follows:

(1) Their conviction is based almost entirely upon the testimony of 3 alleged self-confessed accomplices, only one of whom, Greenglass, brother of Mrs. Rosenberg, testified to any material overt acts, the other two corroborating him only as to relatively insignificant facts.

(2) The courts have frequently pointed out the danger of convicting on the testimony of self-confessed accomplices, since they have every incentive to aid the prosecution in order to obtain clemency for themselves, not having yet been sentenced. In the Rosenberg case, the confessed spy, Greenglass, received a reward for his testimony in the form of a 15-year sentence, and the other two accomplices have not even been indicted.

(3) Greenglass had had personal and financial difficulties with Rosenberg and was personally antagonistic to him.

(4) Greenglass' only testimony as to the so-called atomic secrets was that he had memorized the details of these tremendously involved designs by looking over the shoulders of the scientists working over them at Los Alamos and by listening to their discussions and that he had later drafted those designs at home from memory, and had sold them to the Rosenbergs, who had never been at the plant. He kept no copy of the designs but several years later, just prior to the trial, drafted alleged replicas of them, again from memory. Purely Rembrandt of the most prodigious scientific skill and memory, utterly incomprehensible in a man with but a high school education, and had failed every one of the 8 post-high school technical courses which he had taken and whose only vocation was that of a machinist.

(5) The testimony of the accomplices was uncorroborated by a single witness, except in insignificant details. It was uncorroborated by any documents, records, or any physical evidence. The F.B.I. could uncover nothing of consequence.

(6) Greenglass' testimony is obviously most incredible, even though, as stated by the Circuit Court of Appeals, the conviction could not stand without it.

(7) The jury arrived at its verdict in the light of the atmosphere generated by the charge of the prosecution that the defendants were Communists, the only evidence of which was (a) testimony that they sometimes read the Daily Worker, (b) that cash found in their possession used for the collection of funds for Spanish refugees,

children, and (c) the signature of Mrs. Rosenberg upon the nomination petition of a successful candidate of the Communist party for the New York Council.

The Circuit Court of Appeals did not consider the sufficiency of the evidence to justify the conviction. That Court said that, "where trial is by jury, this court is not allowed to consider the credibility of witnesses or the reliability of testimony."

In view of the foregoing, it seems almost inhuman, and certainly unworthy of the finest traditions of American justice, that a death penalty should be inflicted:

(1) If Greenglass should recant his testimony or the future should establish its falsity, a great and irreparable injustice would have been done;

(2) The infliction of a death penalty in a civil court for espionage is without precedent;

(3) The infliction of a death penalty upon Mrs. Rosenberg, the mother of two small children, is incomprehensible, as contrasted with the 10-year sentences of Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, or with the 5 to 15-year sentences imposed upon the women who sold vital atomic secrets to Germany in the fall of 1941;

(4) The leader of the very conspiracy charged to the defendants, the Klaus Fuchs, the British scientist and Russian spy working at Los Alamos, was sentenced to 14 years by the English court in which he was convicted of more clearly established overt acts than those charged against the Rosenbergs.

The commutation of the sentence is indicated by each of the foregoing considerations, by the deep-seated desire of the courts and of executive officers and of Americans in general to avoid injustice, by the traditional concern of the Bar that even-handed justice be meted out to all accused, however unpalatable their beliefs or personalities, by the understandable desire that American justice should continue to hold the respect of the world.

Will you join us in our effort by authorizing us to affix your name to a brief and respectful letter to President Truman asking for executive clemency? Please realize that time is short.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Fox

Joseph M. Grant

Alfred Cahn

Henry W. Kemp

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS

THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE!

Hundreds of Thousands of Americans are appealing for Clemency!

For the first time Americans have been sentenced to death on such a charge!

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, [illegible] indicted in 1950, charged with giving [illegible] information to Russia in 1944, when he was [illegible] ally. With their co-defendant, Morton Sobell, they protest their innocence to this day. On April [illegible], Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case believes there is definitely [illegible] and reasonable doubt about their conviction. [illegible] the United States Supreme Court [illegible] their request for a review of their conviction, the immediate issue is not their guilt or innocence, but the question that time may bring. [illegible] the Rosenbergs [illegible] the maximum sentence of death. No other [illegible] received the death sentence [illegible] like Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, received [illegible] sentences.

EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEM GUILTY PROTEST THE UNJUST SENTENCE AND ARE ASKING THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUTATION

What you can do to save their lives:

1. Send a letter, telegram, or postal card to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C., respectfully urging him to commute the death sentence for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

2. Send a similar letter, telegram, or postal card to your own Congressman and to your two U.S. Senators, respectfully urging them to speak up for a commutation of sentence for the Rosenbergs.

3. Ask your organization—church, union, synagogue, veterans group, women's local, PTA, social club, bridge club—to send similar letters to the President and other officials.

4. Write to your local newspaper, and visit the editors with a delegation, asking them to speak up editorially for equal American justice for the Rosenbergs.

5. Send a contribution—whatever you can afford—to The Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case to help us carry on this work. Checks may be made out to Josephine Granat, Secretary, 179 West Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill.

Tell us what else you think should be done.

World Public Opinion Clamors For Clemency

DOROTHY THOMPSON

[illegible] 12, 1951

[illegible] 1944 [illegible] 1944 [illegible]

TAS [illegible]

[illegible] CHANDLER

[illegible] 1952

[illegible]

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

[illegible] 14, 1952

[illegible]

THE NATION

[illegible] 29, 1952

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL

[illegible] 1952

[illegible]

JEWISH DAY

[illegible] 15, 1952

[illegible]

THE CHURCHMAN

[illegible] 1952

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER [illegible], 1952

The New York Times

JERUSALEM SENDS A ROSENBERG PLEA

[illegible]

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBEL COMMITTEE

FILE NO. 100-10711

VOLUME NO. BULKY EXHIBITS

SERIALS 1B 115

THRU

1B 131

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: _____ New York _____ Field Division

_____ 2-26-53 _____ Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE #100-107111-13

Date Property Acquired:
See below

Source From Which Property Acquired:

See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit:

Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and
Efforts Made to Dispose of Same:

Evidence and information- retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and
Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

b7D

115. 3 copies each of exhibits J thru R. Rec'd 2-2-53 from Boston. See serial [redacted] Subm. by SA J.A. Harrington.
116. 3 photostatic copies of Exhibits 1-5 received from San Francisco. Rec'd 1-29-53. See serial [redacted] Subm. by SA J.A. Harrington.
117. Circular re: "Clemency for Rosenbergs." Rec'd 1-20-53 from Anonymous source. b7d Subm. 2-24-53 by SA W.J. Walsh.
118. Leaflet issued by Musicians Committee to Secure Clemency For the Rosenbergs. Rec'd [redacted] from [redacted] See serial [redacted] Subm. 2-3-53 by SA R.E. Blasser.
119. Letter sent to contributor by the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case", dated [redacted] Rec'd 2-20-53 from [redacted] Subm. 2-25-53 by SA E.J. Gallagher.
120. Letter- [redacted] 1-28-53 by SA J.A. Harrington.
121. Letter dated 10-22-52 from JOHN PAUL JONES to Mr. EMANUEL H. BLOCH. Rec'd 1-23-53 from Philadelphia. See serial [redacted] Subm. by SA J.A. Harrington.
122. Letter to [redacted] conveying literature circulated by Subject committee. Rec'd 12-22-52 from [redacted] Subm. 2-25-53 by SA J.V. Waters. See ser. [redacted]

b7d

b7d

Field File #:

100-107111-13

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
FEB 26 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: New York Field Division

3-11-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
New York File 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence & information Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

123. Pgs. 4, 5, 6 from publication "The New Leader", dated 1-26-53. Recd. 2-5-53 from [redacted] Subm. by SA R. K. Stoner, 3-11-53. b7d
124. Material received by [redacted] b7d
125. Material received by [redacted]
126. Material received by SA J. D. Gray & Wife.
NOTE: Exhibits 13124, 125,126 recd. 2-26-53. See ser [redacted]. Subm. by SA J. A. Harrington, 3-11-53. b7d
127. Copy of a booklet entitled "The Suppressed Facts In the Rosenberg Case", by Irwin Eledman. Recd. 3-2-53 from CSNY 48. Subm. by SA E. K. Deane, 3-11-53. See ser 692.
128. Material of Rosenberg Committee. Rec'd from [redacted] Subm. 3-16-53 by SA Harrington.
129. Pamphlets issued by National Committee to Serve Justice in Rosenberg Case. Rec'd from [redacted] by SA J.V. Waters. Subm. 3-3-53 by SA J. A. Harrington. b7D
130. Letter of Far Rockaway Citizens Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs and enclosed folder "THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT ON THE ROSENBERG CASE." Rec'd 1-28-53 from [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 3-17-53. b7d
131. 1 photo of Cantor KAMINSKY and Rev. H.S. WILLIAMSON leading prayers in the concluding hours of the White House clemency vigil, Monday, Feb. 23, 1953. Rec'd 3-12-53 from CSNY 426. Subm. 4-1-53 by SA E.K. Deane. See ser. [redacted] 100-107111-1359

b7d

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAR 11 1953
FBI NEW YORK

O Duplicate destroyed

Field File #:

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
115	REPRINTS	✓		
116	REPRINTS	✓		6 pgs OF ITEM 5 (NEWSPAPER ARTICLES) TOO LARGE TO COPY
117	CIRCULAR	✓		
118	CIRCULAR	✓		
119	LETTER	✓		
120	LETTER	✓		
121	LETTER	✓		
122	LETTER	✓		
123	3 PAGES FROM "THE NEW LEADER"	✓		
124	REPRINTS	✓		
125	REPRINTS	✓		
126	REPRINTS	✓		
127	BOOKLET ENTITLED "THE SUPPRESSED FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE" by IRWIN EDELMAN	✓		
128	REPRINTS	✓	b7Δ – 1 REPRINT	
129	PAMPLETS	✓		
130	REPRINTS	✓		
131	PHOTOGRAPH	✓		

AN EDITORIAL AND AN AD FOR CLEMENCY FOR ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG

Daily Mirror

NEW YORK 17, N. Y., MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1953

ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT

New York Jewish Conference
1860 BROADWAY, NYC 23

An Open Letter to President Truman on the Rosenberg Case

Nov. 28, 1952

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to step down from the high office that you have filled with such selfless dedication to our beloved land, we take the liberty of urging upon you earnest consideration of the plea for clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

It is not our province to judge the Rosenbergs innocent or guilty. As long as a judicial question was involved we refused to intervene. Only now, for the first time do we speak out—because now the issue is life or death. And only you, Mr. President, can give the answer.

The Rosenbergs have two little boys, Mr. President. Only your act of mercy can help these unfortunate children.

We well remember that Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, traitors to our country during wartime, got 10 year sentences. That Nazi murderers of American war prisoners, of six million Jews and of countless others, have had their sentences commuted. Never before in the history of the United States was anyone ever sentenced to death by a civil court for espionage.

The eyes of the world are on us. Death to the Rosenbergs would strike a chill of horror into the hearts of our friends everywhere.

The Prophet Micah has told what the Lord requires of man: "Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

In the spirit of these words, Mr. President, we respectfully petition for clemency to the Rosenbergs.

Respectfully,

NATHAN M. PADGUG — Chairman, Executive Com.
RABBI SHEPHERD Z. BAUM — President

JEWISH Examiner

An Independent Medium for the Dissemination of Jewish News and Views

RABBI LOUIS Q. GROSS, Editor; ALBERT FRIEDMAN, Managing Editor; SAUL SHAIKEN circulation Manager.

Vol. XLVIII Jan. 9, 1953—22nd of TEBET, 5713 No. 2

The Dead Can't Confess!

WE'RE NOT TOO IMPRESSED with the sanctimonious argument that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg deserve the death penalty because they refuse to "talk". This idea advanced, surprisingly, by a Rabbi and a Protestant clergyman, among others, smacks of gangster melodrama, not justice.

It would come more naturally from the police department or from a TV writer's perfervid pen ("So you won't talk, eh?") than from spiritual leaders.

We're dealing with human beings, not bushels of potatoes. Two lives are at stake and two children may be orphaned.

Those who state the Rosenbergs should be granted their lives only if they "cooperate" cannot honestly claim moral or religious sanction for such a "deal."

It seems to us that these well-meaning leaders minimize this vital question: Why were the Rosenbergs given the death penalty, although convicted of peacetime espionage for a wartime ally—while others got prison terms for the same crime?

Why does our government spare the lives of Nazi mass murderers like Gen. Eberhard Von Mackensen, who ordered 335 Italian hostages killed in Rome? Mackensen has been released from jail. So has Field Marshal Alfred Kesselring, another Nazi leader. And Franz Eirenschmalz, who helped murder Jews at Auschwitz had his death sentence reduced to a nine-year sentence. And there are many more.

Like Prof. Harold Urey, foremost atomic authority and Nobel prize winner and many others who have studied the trial record, we, who have also studied the trial record, are not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the Rosenbergs are guilty.

The idea that a convicted person who aids the authorities rates "consideration" may be valid up to a point—if rather crass. But it cannot morally be applied where the issue is life or death.

But even those who hold a contrary view should support the clemency appeal, if only to assure an opportunity for ultimate repentance and confession—if there IS anything to confess. And if the Rosenbergs are innocent, what is there for them to reveal?

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. — BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-1B115

AN APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY FOR ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG

Central Methodist Church

The Birthplace of Protestantism in Michigan — First Service 1818
Incorporated 1822
WOODWARD AVENUE AT GRAND CIRCUS PARK - DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

Ministers

HENRY HITT CRANE — E. SHURLEY JOHNSON
JOHN SAFRAN — MILTON J. HUBER, JR.
STEWART MEACHAM, DELHI, INDIA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO

OPEN LETTER

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. President:

I most urgently appeal to you to commute the Rosenberg's death decree to imprisonment.

Some of the reasons for this importunate plea are as follows:

(1) I am unalterably opposed to capital punishment on any count, as it is a deliberate violation of God's commandment, "Thou shalt not kill!" Unless we subscribe to the diabolic Machiavellian principle that a State is justified in doing things which in one person would be sinful, the death sentence is morally wrong.

(2) To allow these persons to be electrocuted on a count for which no others have ever been so punished in these United States is to set a most vicious precedent which will plague and pester us as a people for years to come. It implies an altogether unworthy capitulation to the hysterical temper of the times, and reveals a recreant willingness to resort to "scape-goat" devices to appease the homicidal urges of crowd compulsion.

(3) It is not now so much a question of guilt or innocence. It is a question, especially for those who may think the Rosenbergs guilty, of resorting to such an irrevocably extreme punishment for a crime admittedly not more serious than others that have received a much lighter penalty. England gave the atomic scientist Dr. Mays two to three years; Fuchs, a more serious case, got less than a score. So did Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose who openly aided the enemy in wartime. The inevitable result will be that the Rosenbergs will become martyrs whose death will serve to discredit our Country's cherished reputation for freedom and justice to such a degree that the very mention of their names will become a perpetual rebuke. Thus will we furnish a critical world with propaganda material that will far outweigh any so-called "good" we may assume we are accomplishing.

May God give you the wisdom and strength to make the courageous decision to commute the death sentence to imprisonment, that there may later be opportunity to determine finally the question of guilt — and that justice and mercy may not fail.

Sincerely yours,
Henry Hitt Crane

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National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-1815

RABBIS OF JERUSALEM CALL FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

TEXT OF SIGNED PETITION SENT BY RABBIS OF STATE OF ISRAEL TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

MR. PRESIDENT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE HOLY LAND TAKE THE LIBERTY OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY PLEADING WITH YOU TO EXERT THE POWER OF CLEMENCY GIVEN YOU IN THE TRAGIC CASE OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG STOP WE DARE NOT ENTER INTO THE DETAILS OF TH TRIAL WHICH ENDED IN A JUDGMENT OF GUILT AND DEATH-SENTENCE THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO IMAGINE THAT JEWS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD PARTICULARLY IN A LAND AS RICH IN MERIT AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD ACT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY STOP AT LEAST WE KNOW OF NO SUCH HAPPENING IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE STOP

ALSO WE KNOW OF NO PRECEDENT IN WHICH ANY PERSON WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ON A SIMILAR ACCUSATION IN PEACE-TIME STOP WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO Y OU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP

EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVELLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP

LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP

GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

SIGNED

GERSHON LAPIDOTH RUBEN MENGIS ELIJA MORDECAI WALKOVSKY
JACOB KLIMAS ISSER ZALMAN MELZER ZALMAN SOROTZKIN YEHIEL
YEHIEL SHLAGER EPHRAIM BLUM ISRAEL WAIZ SHLOMO ZALMAN ZEVIN
DAVID SPARBER JOSEPH ADLER AKIBA SOFFER RABBI WEIDENFELD
ABRAHAM KARELITZ JEHOSHUA WEINRECH ISRAEL WELZ HAIM JOEL DUHANI
JACOB TAVITZKY MICHAL TIKUTZINSKY

Mail this leaflet

President Truman

White House

Washington, D. C.

I add my name to this message respectfully requesting clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Name_____

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
1050 Avenue of the Americas, New York 18, N. Y. BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-3115

The New York Times
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
"All the News That's Fit to Print"
ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1953.

Letters to The Times

Rosenberg Sentence Queried

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

After reading the testimony of the Rosenberg case I find that I cannot put to rest my doubts about the verdict and wish to cite the following points:

(1) Max Elitcher's testimony is of doubtful value. He says that he and Julius talked about espionage but never transferred any information for some five years. This doesn't seem probable to me.

(2) No certain conspiracy between Sobell and Rosenberg is established.

(3) The connections to others than Ruth and David Greenglass are not established. Miss Bentley was unable to identify the telephone voice that said, "This is Julius" with the voice of Julius Rosenberg. If "Julius" did not refer to him in this case, it probably did not when Harry Gold said, "I came from Julius" when he met Greenglass in New Mexico. From Gold's testimony it seems that he knew nothing of Rosenberg at all. It seems unbelievable to me that the name of an arch conspirator would be used in such identification phrases.

(4) No contact between the Rosenbergs and Anatoli A. Yakovlev is established.

(5) The Government's case rests on the testimony of Ruth and David Greenglass. He had pleaded guilty, but had not been sentenced and hoped for clemency. She has never been charged and tried, obviously it seems as a reward for her testimony. A family feud between the Greenglasses and Rosenbergs existed because of a business altercation. The Rosenbergs' testimony flatly contradicted that of the Greenglasses.

Testimony of Rosenbergs

I found the Rosenbergs' testimony more believable than that of the Greenglasses, although I realize that I have not had the jurors' advantage of hearing and seeing the witnesses. Is it customary for spies to be paid in wrist watches and console tables? Greenglass and Fuchs were paid in cash. The Rosenbergs appear to have been as poor as churchmice and the statement that Julius was spending $50 or $75 a night in night clubs seems to me to be a very doubtful one. Had he done this, he would have been obviously and unaccountably rich to all his associates.

However, even if the verdict is correct, I am amazed at the unequal punishment for the same crime. For the very same conspiracy Ruth Greenglass was never brought to trial, though she admitted her guilt on the witness stand; David Greenglass got fifteen years; Morton Sobell and Harry Gold got thirty years, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg got death. Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained their innocence. If capital punishment is to be given in the future for espionage I should like to have it introduced in a case for which the evidence rests on the testimony of witnesses who did not stand to profit from their testimony. I do not regard self-confessed criminals as reliable witnesses.

We are engaged in a cold war with the tyrannical Government of the U. S. S. R. We wish to win the approval and loyalty of the good people of the world. Would it not be embarrassing if, after the execution of the Rosenbergs, it could be shown that the United States had executed two innocent people and let a guilty one go completely free? And, remember, somewhere there is a representative of the U. S. S. R. who knows what the facts are.

I strongly urge a careful reconsideration of this sentence.

HAROLD C. UREY.

Chicago, Jan. 3, 1953.

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-16115

Mercy for the Rosenbergs—*Freda Kirchwey*

THE *Nation*

January 10, 1953

Mercy for the Rosenbergs

BY FREDA KIRCHWEY

WHETHER Julius and Ethel Rosenberg live or die, their case will be tried over and over again in the minds of people everywhere. One need not question the ability or good faith of Judge Kaufman to recognize that there are weak spots in the evidence on which the Rosenbergs were convicted and sentenced. But at this eleventh hour such considerations are almost irrelevant. What remain important as the day of execution approaches are deeper considerations of humanity and mercy and an honest weighing of the Rosenbergs' offense against the irreparable punishment they face. It is not necessary to challenge their guilt; it is essential to ask whether the crime they committed, in the circumstances under which they committed it, justifies death. By refusing to grant the Rosenbergs judicial clemency Judge Kaufman last week reiterated his belief that it does.

Now President Truman must ask himself that question, and we profoundly hope he will find a different answer. Otherwise his conscience and that of the American people will be heavily burdened. We have not yet hardened ourselves to endure the ruthless dictates of "political justice"; we still reject concepts of vengeance and exemplary punishment. If the Rosenbergs die, we shall feel that both concepts presided at their execution.

It would be absurd to minimize the crime of which they were convicted. Whether or not it was "worse than murder," as Judge Kaufman declared, it was bad enough. But it was not treason, and it was not spying in behalf of an enemy country—however hard it is to keep that in mind in the atmosphere of cold war. Judge Kaufman takes issue with the frequent assertion that the Rosenbergs were guilty of peace-time espionage and that the death sentence is without precedent in such cases. They were sentenced, he says, for war-time espionage. "This court would not have the power to impose these sentences for peace-time espionage." But in thus demolishing one of the arguments against their execution, he provides a new and possibly stronger one. For if their sentence is based only upon acts committed during the war, the contention that they were enlisted in a "conspiracy to destroy their own country" loses its force. Certainly they were not free to "decide for themselves" whether or not atom secrets should be given to Russia. But is not their undeniable guilt modified by the fact that Russia was our ally in the war and that our government was going to great lengths to keep it powerful and on our side? The Judge tries to brush aside this uncomfortable question by pointing out that the Rosenbergs' spying continued "right down to 1950." In doing so he falls into a trap of his own making—his previous assertion that peace-time espionage would not justify the death sentence.

The truth is, Judge Kaufman denies any validity to the extenuating effect of our war-time alliance with Russia by citing as a precedent the case of the German spies and saboteurs who slipped into this country in 1942. Few protests were heard, he says, against their execution after a military trial. He makes nothing of the fact that these spies were working for an enemy with which we were at war—our major enemy.

He ignores completely a further fact which would demolish this precedent, even were it a legitimate one. There were other German saboteurs who slipped into the United States after the lot he refers to. They were also tried and sentenced to death. But they were not executed while the war lasted, and when it ended and the problem of dealing with them arose, their sentence was commuted and they were sent to federal prison. The complete story of the German spies would provide an excellent precedent for reducing, not confirming, the sentence against the Rosenbergs.

THE Judge also did his best to counter the plea that the death sentence is far out of line with the penalties imposed for similar offenses in Britain and Canada. Klaus Fuchs, he says, received the maximum punishment possible under British law, and both Fuchs and Alan Nunn May pleaded guilty; in any case this country is under no obligation to "blindly follow the law of a foreign nation." One can only urge, in answer, that when our own law permits, we would do well to follow so pertinent an example of restraint and humanity. The alternative to a death sentence in the Rosenbergs' case would be a maximum of thirty years in prison, as compared with the fourteen years given Fuchs. Thirty years would seem to be enough to pay for the crime of espionage committed under the circumstances outlined above.

Recent petitions for clemency signed by such sober-minded citizens as the Reverend Donald B. Cloward, Baptist leader of Mr. Truman's church; Professor H. Richard Niebuhr of the Yale Divinity School; Dr. Harold E. Urey, atomic scientist and Nobel prize-winner; Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, and several hundred more have strongly urged the moral duty of exercising clemency in this case. The latest petition, after conceding the fairness of the trial, declared that commutation of the death sentence would "provide a striking demonstration that the spirit and behavior of a democratic people can be . . . objective, restrained, and humane," serving as an example to "multitudes in all countries, including the totalitarian lands."

We commend these words to President Truman in the firm belief that no final act would better prove his courage and independence than the granting of clemency to these two convicted spies.

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
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100-107111-1B-115

From editorial in the *JEWISH CHRONICLE*, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 5, 1952

"We believe that President Truman ought to commute the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. . . .Justice in the United States must not be more vindictive than in other civilized countries."

From lead editorial in the *TORONTO HEBREW DAILY JOURNAL*, November 24, 1952

"It is also important to know that appealing to their president is not only the task of citizens of the United States. It is the duty of all right-minded liberal people in the entire world to let their voices be heard, and to appeal to the president.

"The example of the 22 Rabbis of Israel, who appealed directly to President Truman on behalf of the Rosenbergs, must serve as an example.

"We are of the opinion, that all liberal and progressive people in Canada must join in this appeal and ask President Truman to spare the lives of the Rosenbergs, because where the law is too harsh there is room for compassion. It is human to commit a crime, it is also human to forgive.

"In the case of the Rosenbergs, it is no excessive request that the death sentence not be carried out. Precedents for this are numberless."

From the *JEWISH WESTERN BULLETIN*, official organ of the Jewish Council of Vancouver

"The Bulletin does not question the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. We do feel, however, that the request for clemency directed to President Truman that he should commute the death sentence imposed on these people, is fully justified. . . .

"Finally, it should be noted that this statement represents the unanimous opinion of the Editorial Committee of this publication."

Issued by:

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

Comments from the Jewish Press on Clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

From article entitled "Justice and Compassion for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," by Hillel Rogoff, editor *JEWISH DAILY FORWARD*, November 29, 1952

"Those who are sincerely interested in the fate of the Rosenbergs should know that now there remains but one means by which they can be saved from the electric chair and that is to move President Truman to commute the death sentence to a lesser punishment. And the appeal to the President should be made on the ground of humaneness, compassion and mercy. . . . Now all energies must be exerted toward one goal—to stop the execution. If this should succeed, then those who believe in the possibility of vindicating them can attempt to do so."

A Cable from Twenty Israeli Rabbis

WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO YOU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

Comments from the Jewish Press on Clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

From *JERUSALEM POST*, November 2, 1952

"There are, however, a number of reasons which have moved many people, though they have no doubt about the Rosenbergs' guilt, to press for a commutation of the sentence. Whatever the secrets transmitted by the Rosenbergs, they were extremely small cogs in a big wheel. Eminent physicists like May and Fuchs, on the other hand, who knew very well what they were doing, have come away with much milder sentences. The former is to be released from prison by the end of this year. To execute the smaller fry and free the higher ups after comparatively short prison sentences, is not the ordinary man's idea of impartial justice."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of *THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE*, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

In Winnipeg, Mr. Melvin Fenson, editor of *THE JEWISH POST*, the oldest Anglo-Jewish weekly in Western Canada, reprinted on his editorial page the full text of an appeal by Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, a noted American religious leader, asking for clemency for the Rosenbergs.

By H. Leivik, Yiddish poet, in *THE JEWISH DAY*, November 25, 1952

"From the profoundest depths of my conscience I wish to add my word of appeal to those of all other honest, non-partisan people who are appealing and who are impelled by no other motive than their obedience to the command of humanism and human mercy. And however small my word may be, I want through this, my word, to appeal to President Truman, to this man who, in the course of his presidency has on more than one occasion manifested wonderfully deep characteristics of human understanding, that the death sentence of the Rosenbergs, who were found guilty, should be commuted by him to imprisonment."

From the *AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD*, Minneapolis, Minn., November 28, 1952

"The unprecedented death sentence in peacetime, however, we believe to be a result of the anti-Communist hysteria prevailing in these days. In periods of hysteria, justice must be consciously raised above and protected against the temper of the times to keep the balance even. . . . It is our conviction that the American historic sense of justice calls for a presidential commutation in this case, and that the spirit of America in these days of hysteria will be more strengthened by a commutation than by the imposition of the death sentence."

From *JEWISH NEWS*, Detroit, Michigan, November 28, 1952

"The final verdict now is in the hands of President Truman, or should sentence be deferred again, it may be placed in the lap of President Eisenhower after January 20. As in the instances of the Dreyfus Affair and the Sacco-Vanzetti Case, Israel's rabbis are following earlier precedents in which non-Americans and non-French pleaded the cause of American-Italians and a French Jew."

From column by Jacob Glatstein, *JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL*, October 29, 1952

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

From editorial in *THE JEWISH DAY*, October 16, 1952

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

By Haim Lieberman, *JEWISH DAILY FORWARD*, November 24, 1952

"Mr. President, God invested you with a part of his greatness, he gave you power of life and death over a sinful couple, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. We pray and hope that in the fateful decision that you must make about them, you will follow the path of mercy, the path of God."

From column by Rabbi Louis D. Gross in *THE JEWISH EXAMINER*, March 14, 1952

"After plowing through volumes of the evidence presented in this tragic case, I am not convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Rosenbergs are guilty.

". . . It is quite possible, and very disturbing, to feel that the hapless Rosenberg couple may have been victimized by the anti-Communist hysteria which has been sweeping this country with deadly effect."

From editorial in the Brooklyn *JEWISH EXAMINER*, October 24, 1952

"The value of the information transmitted to the Rosenbergs by the second-rate electrician David Greenglass, is arguable at best. The Journal of the American Association of Atomic Scientists as well as The Scientific American stated that these 'secrets' were not particularly important.

"German war criminals guilty of ghastly atrocities during World War II, as well as American traitors like Tokio Rose and Axis Sally, escaped the supreme penalty.

"It would seem from the above that the punishment of the Rosenbergs is unduly harsh."

NEVER BEFORE IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS A CIVIL COURT, EITHER IN PEACE OR WAR, DECREED A SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR THE CRIME OF ESPIONAGE. FOR THAT MOST GRAVE OF ALL CRIMES, TREASON, ONLY TWO DEATH SENTENCES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND NO EXECUTION HAS TAKEN PLACE. In the midst of the last war three persons, and after the close of hostilities five persons were charged with, tried for, and convicted of treason for adherence to an enemy that was despicable to the entire world for a wantonness unparalleled in human history. No one of these was executed for his crime.

TO ASK FOR THE REDUCTION OF THESE SENTENCES, THEREFORE, IS TO ASK FOR JUSTICE, NOT FOR CHARITY NOR FOR MERCY.

Nor is it in the interests of the American people to substitute for the disdained "thumbscrew" and the "rack" the coercive power of sentences beyond that justified by the nature of the alleged criminal act, to secure "cooperation" which cannot in truth and good conscience be forthcoming.

The American people would be forever shamed in their own eyes and in the eyes of the world if the forces of law assumed to coerce them to abandon their traditional independence of mind and forth-right spirit.

This is, in part, the significance which the thinking of compassionate people throughout the world has come to attach to our sentences. For the rest, it signifies a retreat to barbarism from which they recoil in horror. Their expressions of deep concern and open protest represent their fear for America's heritage, good name and standing if our executions be consummated. To them, our innocence or guilt is subordinate to the wantonness with which our lives were forfeit.

We appeal to this Court's mind and conscience to take counsel with the reason of others and with the deepest human feelings that treasure life and shun its taking. Justice can be served for all while there is life. We ask for that justice.

Issued by
National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg's

APPEAL *for* CLEMENCY

December 30, 1952

From the text of the Affidavit submitted to the Court

We are husband and wife. We are firmly united by the ties of marriage, the love we bear our two fine sons and one another. As one, we seek relief from sentences that would produce the unutterable tragedy of the destruction of our small family, and set a precedent for the abandonment, in America, of the civilized appreciation of the worth of human life.

We have suffered deeply for the past two years. Torn from our children and, in the shadow of death, we have been isolated, like caged animals, from the mainstream of life.

We have never known the ease of riches or even comfort. At times we have felt the pangs of want. We come from a humble background and we are humble people. Were it not for the criminal accusations against us, we would have lived out our lives simply, like most people, unknown to the world, except for those few whose lives crossed ours.

We are conscious that were we to accept this verdict, express guilt, the conventional penitence and remorse, the Court's mind might be more easily swayed to mitigate our sentences.

But this course is not open to us.

We are innocent, as we have proclaimed and maintained from the time of our arrest. This is the whole truth. To forsake this truth is to pay too high a price even for the priceless gift of life — for life thus purchased we could not live out in dignity and self-respect.

Our case burst upon the public in 1950, when the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, strained over the course of the preceding years, had reached a critical stage.

When we were arrested as spies for the Soviet Union, labeled as "Communists," charged, in the main, with theft of atomic-bomb information from the Los Alamos Project, the mere accusation was enough to arouse deep passions, violent antipathies, and fears, as profound as the instinct of self-preservation. The "truth" of the accusation, and our alleged association as confederates, once removed, of Fuchs, was confirmed to the public — before trial and out of court — by the F.B.I. and prosecuting officers of the Government, buttressed by the weight of the tremendous prestige which they publicly enjoy.

It was hammered home, and kept alive by a virtual avalanche of publicity which saturated the communal mind with a consciousness that our country was imminently in danger of atomic attack and devastation by the Soviet Union, which had acquired the bomb by reason of its having obtained the "secret," from an espionage apparatus, ideologically motivated, of which we were "aggressive" members.

FROM THIS COMMUNITY, THE JURORS WHO TRIED US WERE CHOSEN.

The Government's case against us stands or falls on the testimony of David Greenglass and Ruth, his wife, and even the Court of Appeals, in affirming this judgment, has explicitly so declared. How firm is a verdict predicated upon the testimony of "accomplices," trading their Judas-words for a few years of their miserable lives? Even the rigorous canons of the law recognize that the overriding motive for falsehood, requires that the accusations of a trapped criminal, testifying to mitigate or avoid his own punishment, be taken with care and caution, and brand a prosecution founded on such evidence as "weak" and suspect.

In one instance, where the possibility existed for full independent proof of the perjury, the Government was constrained to concede it. Ben Schneider, a photographer, the Government's "surprise" witness on the sensitive question of flight, was permitted to testify falsely, that he had not seen us, from the time he said he took passport photos of us, until the moment he took the stand to testify. The Government admitted that the day prior an F.B.I. agent, at the direction of Saypol and in violation of the order of this Court excluding all witnesses, brought Schneider into the courtroom, behind the rail, to identify us. This secret and unlawful intrusion, in aid of his subsequent testimonial identification, unrevealed to the Court or the jury, served to avoid the destruction of his probity that rested on the certainty of his identification.

From the *JEWISH WESTERN BULLETIN*, official organ of the Jewish Council of Vancouver

"The Bulletin does not question the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. We do feel, however, that the request for clemency directed to President Truman that he should commute the death sentence imposed on these people, is fully justified. . . .

"Finally, it should be noted that this statement represents the unanimous opinion of the Editorial Committee of this publication."

From lead editorial in the *TORONTO HEBREW DAILY JOURNAL*, November 24, 1952

"It is also important to know that appealing to their president is not only the task of citizens of the United States. It is the duty of all right-minded liberal people in the entire world to let their voices be heard, and to appeal to the president.

"The example of the 22 Rabbis of Israel, who appealed directly to President Truman on behalf of the Rosenbergs, must serve as an example.

"We are of the opinion, that all liberal and progressive people in Canada must join in this appeal and ask President Truman to spare the lives of the Rosenbergs, because where the law is too harsh there is room for compassion. It is human to commit a crime, it is also human to forgive.

"In the case of the Rosenbergs, it is no excessive request that the death sentence not be carried out. Precedents for this are numberless."

D. N. Pritt, London, Queen's Counsel

"I am forced to the conclusion that, even if the conviction of the Rosenbergs had rested on reliable evidence that they had conspired to obtain some information, any sentence expressed by the judge to be based on such inaccurate and unproved assertions as to the importance of the information would have to be set aside on appeal under any procedure which provided for a free review of the sentence by an Appellate Court.

"Unfortunately, the procedure applicable to this case does not provide for such a review, any more than it provides for a consideration of the credibility of the witnesses or the reliability of the evidence. Were the procedure different, it may well be that the whole matter would have been disposed of already. But there is, in effect, no appeal at all to any court from either of the two main defects of this trial, namely, the unreliability of the evidence and the gravely excessive sentence.

"The duty of securing a review on these points thus rests on public opinion throughout the world. After full study, for the reasons which I have expressed above, I must express the view, from a purely professional standpoint, that it would offend against all Anglo-Saxon standards of justice that the convictions, let alone the sentence, of the Rosenbergs should be allowed to stand."

Issued by:

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The People Speak Out— On the Rosenberg Case

Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School, Connecticut

"I was shocked when I read that the death sentence had been imposed upon Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and I am glad to have the opportunity of saying a word which might have some influence in altering the sentence. . . . I feel that the sentence is too severe because it is not commensurate with that meted out to others guilty of the same offense. . . . We should by no means allow ourselves to determine life and death in terms of emotions engendered by a succession of disillusionments."

***THE CHURCHMAN* (Protestant Episcopalian), in an editorial on November 1, 1952:**

"The Churchman feels that the death sentence, in the light of the far milder treatment of more serious offenders than the Rosenbergs, is both excessive and cruel. We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the name of the United States. . . ."

From editorial in the Brooklyn *JEWISH EXAMINER*, October 24, 1952

"The value of the information transmitted to the Rosenbergs by the second-rate electrician David Greenglass, is arguable at best. The Journal of the American Association of Atomic Scientists as well as The Scientific American stated that these 'secrets' were not particularly important.

"German war criminals guilty of ghastly atrocities during World War II, as well as American traitors like Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, escaped the supreme penalty.

"It would seem from the above that the punishment of the Rosenbergs is unduly harsh."

THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

From an editorial in the *BOSTON CHRONICLE*, November 29, 1952, entitled "Clemency for the Rosenbergs"

"Those of us who recall the relatively light sentences meted out to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally for their treasonable activities during World War II cannot help from considering the death sentence of the Rosenbergs as "cruel and unusual punishment." Their trial was conducted in an atmosphere conducive to the severity of their sentence, the supreme penalty, and in making this observation we are cognizant of its weight without regard to the innocence or guilt of the sentenced persons on the basis of flimsy or substantial evidence."

A letter by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

"My dear Mr. Bloch:*

"Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 17. I have accepted the verdict of the courts in their conviction of the Rosenbergs for violating the espionage laws of our country. The crime of which they have been found guilty is a heinous one and I found no sympathy in my heart for men and women who betray their country. I was especially resentful of the effort that was made to drag in the issue of anti-semitism in this most unfortunate affair.

"However, I believe that the death sentence which has been imposed is unprecedented in the legal annals of our country as a punishment for espionage in peacetime. I believe that our country is strong and great-hearted enough to be merciful. Should, therefore, an appeal be made to the court or to the President of the United States for clemency and for commutation of the death sentence, I am prepared to add my name to such a plea.

"I do not wish any publicity to be given by you to this letter of mine or to my position in this matter. I wish it to be held confidential except for court or presidential use."**

* Emanuel Bloch, defense counsel for the Rosenbergs.

** Rabbi Silver has given permission to reprint this letter in its entirety, in view of the fact that portions of it have previously been published without authorization.

From article entitled "Justice and Compassion for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," by Hillel Rogoff, editor *JEWISH DAILY FORWARD*, November 29, 1952

"Those who are sincerely interested in the fate of the Rosenbergs should know that now there remains but one means by which they can be saved from the electric chair and that is to move President Truman to commute the death sentence to a lesser punishment. And the appeal to the President should be made on the ground of humaneness, compassion and mercy. . . . Now all energies must be exerted toward one goal—to stop the execution. If this should succeed, then those who believe in the possibility of vindicating them can attempt to do so."

THE NATION, article by Arthur Garfield Hays, November 8, 1952

". . . We may try, but we cannot forget the two young Rosenberg children. . . . It is the damnable death penalty that causes the uneasiness."

Mary Van Kleeck, sociologist

"In New York six months ago I spent many hours reading transcripts of testimony and documents of the trial. As a sociologist concerned with public opinion in international relations, I found many evidences that both judge and prosecuting attorney permitted and even intensified the injection into the trial of political issues, which had no bearing on the guilt or innocence of the defendants. May I join with others to take such action as may be possible to prevent these deaths and thus to avert this irremediable disaster in our nation's history."

Dorothy Thompson, *THE WASHINGTON STAR*, April 12, 1951

"The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . in 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

The Rev. John Paul Jones, *N. Y. TIMES*, November 28

"To the Editor of The New York Times:

"The imposing of the death sentence on the two Rosenbergs is, to say the least, a troublesome matter for the conscience of thoughtful people.

"In the first place, even when conceding that the Rosenbergs have been guilty of transmitting information to the Soviet Union, the trial evidence and conduct do not remove all doubts about either the wisdom or justice of inflicting the death penalty. Great stress has been laid that this alleged crime was begun in wartime but equal stress has not been laid upon the fact that it was not connivance with a wartime enemy but with an ally. . . .

"While a layman is hardly qualified to comment upon matters of due process it is important to remember that at least some quite capable and disinterested lawyers assert that there were violations. It is hard to dispel the feeling that the mood and temper of the present time have created an atmosphere in which a fair trial has been extremely difficult, if not impossible. . . .

"Commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment will keep the Rosenbergs from doing further harm, will set a quite sufficient example of the dire consequences of subversive acts, and at the same time make it possible to correct an injustice, at least partially, should later evidence or study prove such to be the case."

From editorial in *THE JEWISH DAY*, October 16, 1952

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

Max Lerner, *NEW YORK POST*, June 19, 1952

"I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

From editorial in the *JEWISH CHRONICLE*, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 5, 1952

"We believe that President Truman ought to commute the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. . . . Justice in the United States must not be more vindictive than in other civilized countries."

Father Frank North, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, in a letter to the President

"Dear Mr. President: As a priest I am as much opposed to Communism as anyone. But surely the sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing on atomic information to Russia while she was our ally is way out of line. In the interests of justice and decency can't you do something about their death penalties? Surely this would also be of value from the standpoint of propaganda."

Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff, Brooklyn, N. Y.

". . . As a devout Jew, I revere our country's laws, which carry out the humane principles enunciated in the Torah, and I am reminded that the Declaration of Independence is of one piece with our leader Moses' exhortation: 'Proclaim freedom throughout the land.' Therefore, it is inconceivable to me that in our country a death sentence should be so lightly given, as was the case in the Rosenberg Trial.

From *THE COMMONWEAL*, widely-circulated Catholic weekly, January 9, 1953

"The Rosenbergs were lawfully tried and, at least as far as the letter of the law goes, lawfully sentenced to pay the supreme penalty. Whether they would have received as drastic a sentence had they been tried, say, in 1946 rather than during the cold war, is doubtful.

"Whenever the state takes a life, so final is the step, there must be a certain hesitation in putting the stamp of approval upon the decision. In the case of a political crime, our tradition of political liberty makes one doubly hesitant. It is foreign to our temper as a people and to the spirit of our history to stand in the street calling for blood. . . .

"Alive, the Rosenbergs represent a constant threat to the Communist conspiracy. From hour to hour who can be sure when one or the other of them will not break down and talk? Dead, their secrets die with them. . . ."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, column by Jacob Glatstein, October 29, 1952

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

Dr. Rudolf Carnap, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

"Thank you for sending me the affidavit by Professor Bernal in connection with the Rosenberg Case. I have read it with great interest. It confirmed my earlier belief that the Court has greatly overstated the importance of the scientific information contained in the sketches of implosion lenses by David Greenglass, or by any accompanying details which a man with his very limited theoretical background was able to furnish. For this reason I feel that the severity of the sentence is out of proportion to the actual damage which could possibly have been done."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. However, accepting the verdict as correct, I am amazed and completely outraged by the unequal punishment which has been given.

"Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained they are innocent and they were convicted on testimony which I do not believe is conclusive beyond a reasonable doubt. If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of *THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE*, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio

"It is argued that, through the betrayal of atomic secrets by the Rosenbergs, Russia gained a military advantage. That the act alleged of the Rosenbergs imparted to Russia any military advantage has, by no means, been proved. But granted that such advantage for Russia might have ensued, others convicted of the identical crime—Fuchs, Greenglass, Gold, Sobell, Slack, Simons, May, Brothman—have not been sentenced to die: they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. If the death penalty was, in those other cases, not requisite for our national defense, why should it be so regarded in the case of the Rosenbergs?"

A Cable from Twenty Israeli Rabbis, November 18, 1952

WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO YOU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

Charles E. Raven, Professor Emeritus, Cambridge University, England; Chaplain to HM, the Queen

"As one who has spent much time during the past twenty-five years in the United States and has a deep concern for Anglo-American friendship I cannot but deplore the death sentence upon the Rosenbergs both in itself and from its inevitable effect upon British and world opinion.

". . . this savage verdict underlines the conviction that America, instead of leading the world to a more righteous and liberal way of life, is becoming so hysterical in its dread of Communism as to betray the very principles upon which its Constitution was founded and which its past history has always respected.

"The sentence of death, whatever the merits of the case, is a tragic event for all lovers of the Republic."

Dudley Collard, attorney, England

"Even if the guilt of . . . Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were satisfactorily established, and I am far from being convinced that this is the case, I should be profoundly shocked at the passing upon them in time of peace a sentence of death, which in my opinion is unworthy of any country with a claim to call itself civilized. My opinion is shared by all my professional colleagues at the Bar of England to whom I have spoken of the matter, irrespective of their political opinions."

The Very Rev. C. W. Chandler, Dean of Waikato, New Zealand

"Assuming that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are guilty, it must be borne in mind that it was during World War II, when Russia was an ally, that these persons committed these offenses. As heinous as the offense may be, it does not merit a death sentence, and I cannot believe that in this instance the President of your Republic will allow this sentence to stand. It would be cruel, inhuman and barbaric in the extreme and would raise a storm of protest throughout the world if one of the chief partners in the world's Democratic States, countenanced the infliction of a death penalty, where even a modicum of doubt existed as to the guilt of the persons concerned."

Duke of Bedford, Woburn, Bucks, England

"Capital punishment for political offenses is unworthy of a truly civilized government and suggests its inability to protect itself adequately from hostile or objectionable political influences, either by sound administration at home, or by a just, imaginative and enlightened policy in its dealings with foreign nations."

Rev. Stanley Evans, England

"The view of this section of British opinion is that so much evidence was allowed as to opinion and so little offered as to the fact of guilt that these two people would never have been convicted by an English Court, still less sentenced to the extreme penalty of death.

"We are watching with the deepest anxiety your efforts to secure remission of this terrible sentence."

Sydney Silverman, Member of Parliament, England

". . . I have no hesitation at all in saying that I contemplate with horror the possibility that the death sentence could be carried out in such a case by any civilized country; least of all the United States upon whom history has placed in our time so heavy a responsibility for the wise leadership of so many nations in the onward march of civilization. . . . To exact the extreme penalty from these two unfortunates in these circumstances is to make the Rosenbergs personally responsible for all the errors of the statesmen of the world which since the end of the war have so tragically lost the peace for which we all hoped. That may, as many think, be the sole responsibility of the U.S.S.R.; it surely is not that of the Rosenbergs."

Lord Chorley of Kendel (formerly Cassel Professor of Law in the University of London)

"I am strongly averse to the death penalty, carrying out of the death sentence in such a case as this. I shall be glad to add my name in an appeal to the President for clemency."

Nicole J. Dreyfus, prominent lawyer, Paris

"It is with the saddest feelings that I learned of the death sentence against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and I raise my voice to demand a revision of the judgment."

Janet Jagan, Member Georgetown Town Council, British Guiana

"I am in full agreement with the opposition against this ruthless measure . . . and join in the world-wide protest against such inhuman treatment."

The Gazette and Daily

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saturday, January 3, 1953

EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT

Treason is the most serious crime which can be committed against a state. The maximum penalty is death. Charges of treason however are a favorite device of tyrants, despots, would be dictators and morally unscrupulous politicians to stop criticism, eliminate opposition or advance their lust for power and personal aggrandizement.

Our forefathers who knew a good bit about such things—having been charged with treason and threatened with hanging by a tyrant for petty offense—deliberately wrote into the Constitution of the United States provisions relating to treason surrounding the accused with protection against easy conviction.

"Treason," says the Constitution, "against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court."

It would seem to one that so far as crimes related to treason are concerned in which the death penalty can be imposed, it would only be right and proper, or even more so, that the accused should have the same protection as is accorded those charged with treason. For after all those hung for something less than treason are just as dead as those hung for the greater crime of treason itself.

What even we Americans are now doing however is to try persons who can not be convicted of treason, for something we call espionage or conspiracy to commit espionage, find them guilty and sentence them to be hung. Which is the most we could possibly do to them if they were guilty of treason.

And we do this without surrounding those accused of such lesser crimes with the protections they would have if charged with the greater crime of treason.

It does not make sense on any other theory than that it is an ingenious way to get around the Constitution and open the way for possible future tyrants to hang persons without having to do away with the Constitution.

It has already become so bad that an accused might well be in less jeopardy of his life if charged with major treason itself; rather than with some minor treason under some other name.

That is just what is so morally wrong about the Rosenberg case. The Rosenbergs could not have been convicted for treason. That is conceded. So they are charged with conspiracy to commit espionage, found guilty and given the death sentence.

It is not the conviction of the Rosenbergs that is at fault. It is the death penalty for a far less serious crime than treason for which under the Constitution they could not be convicted, the imposition of a sentence that was just as severe as though they had actually been found guilty of treason itself.

It is a sorry state of affairs when such things can happen in United States, fraught with dire danger to our future welfare. It is our honor that is at stake in this Rosenberg case and we are not acquitting ourselves well when we permit fear and hysteria to induce us to use such bad judgment as to kill persons for something less than treason whom our Constitution prevents us from killing for treason itself.

The New York Times

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1953

1,500 CLERGY BACK ROSENBERGS' PLEA

Sign Letter to President Asking Clemency—Reds in Paris Protest at Embassy

Fifteen hundred Christian clergymen have signed an open letter to President Truman requesting executive clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atomic spies.

Their execution has been postponed pending the President's action on an appeal filed last Saturday by the Rosenbergs, who were originally scheduled to be put to death in Sing Sing tonight.

The names of the clergymen who signed the open letter to Mr. Truman were made public yesterday by the Rev. Dr. Jesse W. Stitt, pastor of the Village Presbyterian Church and a former president of the Manhattan division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

Among the sponsors of the letter were the Rev. Dr. James Luther Adams of the Meadeville Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School; the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, executive vice president of the Golden Rule Foundation; the Rev. Dr. Robert Hastings Nichols, professor emeritus of the Union Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Dr. Bernard Loomer, Dean of the Divinity School, Chicago University.

Deny Partisanship

"We are not partisans," the letter reads. "Our plea does not hang on the decision of the Rosenbergs' guilt or innocence, nor the degree of their wrongdoing. We ask you in the spirit of the love which casts out fear to mitigate a punishment of such terrible finality, and which, for the offense, is unique in our history."

This was the letter that the Rev. Dr. John Heuss, rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, refused to sign. On Monday, he announced that he had written Dr. Adams that he considered "the crime which the Rosenbergs were convicted for one of the worst in the annals of mankind."

Pleas on behalf of the Rosenbergs have recently been sent to the White House by a group of close relatives of the convicted couple.

"Time is very short," one of the letters said. "Please give these two young parents of two small children a chance to live so that some day they will be able to prove their innocence. From the time they were first arrested, with no knowledge of the charges, they said they were innocent, and maintain their innocence to this day."

REPRINTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9404

SHADOW OF A DOUBT?

The Case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

(who face execution on charges of espionage)

"They were convicted by the atmosphere and not the evidence"

Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter
"The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti"

For some the wheels of justice grind exceedingly fast

March 6, 1951	Trial begins
March 29, 1951	Verdict delivered
April 5, 1951	Judgment pronounced
January 10, 1952	Appeal to U.S. Court of Appeals
February 25, 1952	Conviction affirmed
June 7, 1952	Petition for writ of certiorari filed with the U.S. Supreme Court
October 13, 1952	Hearing denied
October 28, 1952	Petition for rehearing filed with Supreme Court
? ?	Decision?

EXECUTION WEEK OF JAN. 12

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEATH HOUSE

"We are not meant to die now, we are young and yours for a long life of accomplishment. What if the only alternative to death is the purchase of life at the cost of personal dignity and abandonment of the struggle for democracy and political standards which we have fought for? For us or any legacy we can leave our children or those coming after us, for what is life without the right to live it? Death holds no horror as great as the surrender of a single inch of moral responsibility and the sacrifice of one's convictions."

Ethel Rosenberg
Julius Rosenberg

100-107111-1B-116

No Appeal From the Grave

[illegible]

Did they have a fair, unprejudiced trial?

[illegible] procedure [illegible] conducted in an atmosphere of hysteria and conviction by headlines and slander made an impartial trial impossible.

[illegible] There is a group of [illegible] who want to [illegible] break down all our constitutional guarantees. They want to do away with the Bill of Rights whenever one man is accused of Communism. Because the Bill of Rights protects us all, [illegible] the Constitution down in one direction, the traditional forces of prejudice and [illegible] will break through and endanger all of us. And the first people to suffer [illegible] this happens will be naturalized citizens and those of foreign parentage."

—President Harry S. Truman
[illegible]

Was the judge impartial?

[illegible] want you to understand right at the outset that the FACT THAT THEY (the defendants) WERE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY does not establish the elements necessary to prove them guilty of the crime charged in this indictment.

—Judge Irving R. Kaufman
[illegible] to the jury early in the trial

According to the transcript, there was NO EVIDENCE that the Rosenbergs were Communists, YET THE JUDGE REFERRED TO THIS AS A "FACT".

Was the evidence conclusive?

The ONLY evidence presented was the uncorroborated testimony of an confessed spy and hearsay testimony of informers. Without the testimony of David Greenglass, bargaining for his own life, the prosecution had no case.

[illegible]

Is there reasonable doubt as to their guilt?

[illegible] is not for us to decide whether the Rosenbergs are guilty, but from what we have read of the legal proceedings we have come to the conclusion that more than a reasonable doubt exists as to their guilt."

—Phineas J. Niven
[illegible] Jewish Chronicle—March 7, 1952

"After plowing through volumes of evidence presented in this tragic case, I am [illegible] convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Rosenbergs are guilty."

—Rabbi Louis D. Gross
[illegible] Jewish Sentinel—Chicago, March 14, 1952

100-109117-1B116

No Appeal From the Grave

Was the sentence justified?

"The Chairman [illegible] that the death sentence, in the light of the [illegible] of [illegible] co-defendants [illegible] the Rosenbergs, is [illegible] excessive [illegible] We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt [illegible] for the United States. [illegible] will partially [illegible] the complicated [illegible] [illegible] example of unequal justice, [illegible] by the political factors involved."

—The Chairman—November 3, 1952
[illegible] Journal of the [illegible]
[illegible] Chang

"We feel that we were entitled to appeal to the President to commute the death sentence, [illegible] for the sake of America's good name [illegible] worth that the President [illegible] compassion along with judgment."

—The Jewish Day—New York, December [illegible] 1952

When higher courts have seen fit to review the cases of convicted tax frauders and dope peddlers, why not the case of the Rosenbergs?

"By the Associated Press:

"Boston—Oct. 30, 1952. The U.S. Court of Appeals today set aside the conviction of ousted Internal Revenue Collector Denis W. Delaney because he was forced to stand trial in the hostile atmosphere engendered by pretrial publicity."

—San Francisco Chronicle—Sept. 5, 1952

"John (Johnny the Bug) Stopelli, thief, gunman and notorious dope trafficker, was [illegible] turned loose from Federal prison and his fine returned to him by an order of the President of the United States. The 'Bug' was found guilty in Federal Court three years ago of three separate narcotics charges.

"It now appears that the 'Bug' was found guilty on faulty evidence."

SHADOW OF DOUBT?

There is—and men and women of conscience must act.

WIRE OR WRITE TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN. ASK CLEMENCY. ASK FOR A NEW TRIAL.

President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

In the name of justice, I ask that you use your executive powers to grant clemency to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Spare them the unprecedented death sentence. Every opportunity traditional in American justice must be open to the Rosenbergs, no less than for any other American. They must have a new trial.

Sincerely yours,

100-107111-1B116

The Clock is Ticking in the Death House

There Is So Little Time — ACT NOW

BAY AREA COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE ROSENBERGS
228 McAllister Street, San Francisco, Calif.
MA 5-9811

I have sent my letter to the President.

I want to receive your material. I enclose $ _____ for your help.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

Sponsored by BAY AREA COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE ROSENBERGS

100-107111-18116

BAY AREA

Committee To Save The Rosenbergs

PAUL SCHNUR
CHAIRMAN

LOUISE CARRY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

SYLVIA STEINGART
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 24, 1952

222B McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIF.
MARKET 4-9811

Dear Friend:

We are fighting to save the lives of two people, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who have been sentenced to die in the electric chair in New York's Sing Sing prison during the week of January 12th.

This husband and wife were sentenced to death on the charge of conspiracy to commit espionage. They were doomed to die by a civil court — a sentence unprecedented in American justice.

Many religious leaders in the United States and throughout the world have raised their voices in protest against the savagery of the sentence. Most believe them unfairly convicted — some believe them guilty — but all agree that the death sentence is extreme and unjust. Our Committee believes the verdict was reached on inconclusive evidence in a trial conducted in an atmosphere of hysteria and prejudice.

Attached to this letter you will find statements, including expressions from religious leaders of all faiths, condemning the death sentence for the Rosenbergs.

We appeal to you as a man of God to exercise those principles of mercy and compassion which guide you in his service and ask that you join in the battle to save two human lives.

Each must act in his own way. You may wish to counsel with other members of the clergy. Or perhaps you may wish to lead your congregation in a prayer for the lives of the Rosenbergs, to enlist their aid in this humane cause.

Our Committee is devoting all its energies to urging President Truman to use his powers of executive clemency and save the Rosenbergs from death.

However you decide to act, we appeal to you as the conscience of America to join in opposing the execution of the Rosenbergs.

If you wish to call upon our Committee for assistance or information, we will be honored to aid in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Schnur, Chairman

100-10714-1B116

ETHEL & JULIUS ROSENBERG, AMERICANS

WILL DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

FOR THEIR POLITICAL OPINIONS — UNLESS YOU ACT!

American parents of two small children, the Rosenbergs are sitting in Sing Sing Death House as you read these words. Their appeal from the death sentence, imposed for "conspiracy" to transmit to the USSR information relating to the national defense, has been denied by the Court of Appeals. Their case now goes to the U.S. Supreme Court.

ONLY PUBLIC OPINION CAN SAVE ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG FROM ELECTROCUTION.

The STORY OF THE CRIME against the Rosenbergs is practically unknown by the American people — the court of last resort. A BLANKET OF SILENCE has been thrown over this case. A sentence, unprecedented in its mortality, and unprecedented in the history of the American people, has been imposed.

MEETING

TO SECURE A FAIR TRIAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 8:00 P.M.
AMERICAN FRIENDS HALL, 1830 SUTTER

WILLIAM REUBEN

Former public relations director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and 1951 director of the United Jewish Appeal Yearbook, now a reporter for the National Guardian, will tell the story. Single-handed, Mr. Reuben has investigated and exposed the truth:

YOU are a public opinion, whatever your political convictions, if you are concerned for, frightened by the swift disappearance from America of equal justice under law, your proudest tradition. Then YOU MUST be concerned with this unprecedented case. Why?

Because:

DUE PROCESS of law was decided the accused:

HYSTERIA and INTIMIDATION were deliberately, flagrantly and cynically whipped up by the press, the prosecutor, the judge and the very government itself;

NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER supported the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg;

ANTI-SEMITISM played a major role in the case and was so recognized and denounced by:

The Jewish Daily Forward;

Rabbi George Fox, the Sentinel;

The Jewish Day;

Rabbi Jacob Cohen, the California Jewish Voice;

Rabbi Louis D. Gross, publisher, Texas Jewish Examiner.

THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS are now aware that it is not just the Rosenberg family involved in a fair trial, but that the worst enemy are the Rosenberg's political adversaries, for the gerrymander type of politics unknown in America.

HUMAN LIVES ARE AT STAKE TODAY. WILL YOU HELP SAVE THEM?

[illegible] committee, [illegible] Secure Justice for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

[illegible]

[illegible]

100-10711-1B116

Rosenberg case expert due in SF

[illegible] SAN FRANCISCO, April 20—William [illegible] Reuben, the newspaper reporter who almost single-handedly exposed the injustices of the Rosenberg case, will speak here Sunday evening, April [illegible], under auspices of the Greater San Francisco Provisional Committee to Secure Justice for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Reuben, dynamic, humble, [illegible] director for the American Civil Liberties Union and now a reporter for the National Guardian, will speak at 8 p.m. at Amerasia Grange Hall, 1849 Sutter st.

Only public opinion can save Ethel and Julius Rosenberg from execution, the committee pointed out in announcing Reuben's appearance.

The Rosenbergs face execution for alleged participation in atom spy ring, which case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Time and again, the Rosenbergs have declared from the death cells at Sing Sing prison, "we said, and we say again, we are the victims of the gravest type of political frameup."

The most conservative sections of the Jewish press have denounced prosecution of the Rosenbergs because of the grave injustices inherent in the prosecution and verdict.

The death sentence has been called "unparalleled in its brutality and unprecedented in the history of the American people" by the committee.

Headquarters of the newly-organized provisional San Francisco committee are at 100 Hayes

ETHEL ROSENBERG

DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD, APRIL 21, 1952,

Page 6, Column 5.

100-107111-1B116

Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

Fact Sheet No. 1 San Francisco

To Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

On March 6, 1951, the New York City, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were charged with atomic espionage, and after a five week trial, on April 15, 1951, Judge Irving Kaufman sentenced them to death.

Never before in our history has a civil court imposed a death sentence for espionage, neither in peace nor war time. There was an immediate widespread feeling among the American public that the death sentence was savage, that the alleged guilt of the Rosenberg's had by no means been proved.

The facts in the case (see inside pages) overwhelmingly confirm the conclusion that .....

THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE!

100-107111-1816

THE PROOF

The government announced it would call 118 witnesses, among them Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves, head of the war-time atomic bomb project, and that it would take three months to present its case.

But eight and a half court days later the government rested its case. Oppenheimer, Urey and Groves were never called. Of the 118 witnesses originally announced, only 20 were produced. The 20 consisted of the following:

Eight testified to details of a vacation visit to Mexico by Irving Sobell and family, against whom there was no charge except friendship with the innocent Rosenbergs.

Two army colonels testified to security measures at the Los Alamos atomic project during the war.

One physicist explained a sketch David Greenglass drew in court concerning some components of the atom bomb.

One witness, Rosenberg's family doctor, testified that Rosenberg had asked in behalf of a friend about innoculations necessary to enter Mexico.

One witness, David Greenglass' brother-in-law, testified to hiding $4,000 for Greenglass and turning it over to attorney O. John Rogge, after Greenglass' arrest.

One witness, Ruth Greenglass' sister, testified that Julius Rosenberg had once asked her to leave the room during a visit to her sister.

One witness identified a photograph of Soviet consular aide Anatoli Yakovlev, named in the indictment as a defendant 4 years after he returned to the U.S.S.R. in 1946.

NOT A SINGLE WITNESS OF THE ABOVE 15 TESTIFIED TO ANYTHING WHICH IMPLICATED THE ROSENBERGS IN ESPIONAGE OR IN ANY OTHER CRIME.

Thus the remaining 5 witnesses become especially important. It remained for them to suggest meaning to the unrelated testimony of the above 15, and to directly involve the Rosenbergs in the case.

Hence these five witnesses and the testimony they gave should be scrutinized most carefully.

THE WITNESSES

Two of the remaining five witnesses, Elizabeth Bentley and Harry Gold, were self-confessed one-time spy couriers. Neither of them, as was brought out at the trial, had ever known or seen or been involved in any way with any of the defendants. They introduced two items of evidence:

1. That the name Julius, referring to a man unknown to either of them, recurred in telephone conversations and was a pass-word used in a spy plot;

2. That membership in the Communist Party made it implicit to carry out orders from Moscow.

With the above evidence the prosecution linked the name of the mysterious Julius with Julius Rosenberg. Actually (and this was unknown to the defense at the time of the trial) the Julius in question was Dr. Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs, self-confessed leader of a spy-ring, now serving a 14-year sentence for espionage. In reporting the arrest of Dr. Fuchs, the New York Times of Feb. 4, 1950 (one year before the Julius evidence was presented by the govt.) stated: "Dr. Fuchs, who is charged in London with unlawfully disclosing atomic secrets, was known to his friends here as Julius."

In supporting the second contention above, the government introduced two exhibits intended to incriminate the Rosenbergs:

A Spanish Refugee Appeal collection can found in the Rosenberg apartment;

A nominating petition for Peter Cacchione, successful Communist candidate for N.Y.C. Council in 1941, also found in the Rosenberg apartment. (This was one of thousands of petitions signed by 50,000 New Yorkers.)

100-16244-1510

THESE WERE THE ONLY TWO EXHIBITS, SUBMITTED BY THE GOVT. DURING THE ENTIRE CASE, WHICH WERE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE ROSENBERGS.

Three final witnesses complete the government roster: Max Elitcher and David and Ruth Greenglass. ONLY THESE THREE offered any testimony purporting to incriminate the Rosenbergs. Here is their testimony:

Max Elitcher, in a signed statement for the FBI, said that on two visits to his home during World War II, Rosenberg had asked him to spy for the U.S.S.R., but that he had never done so.

David and Ruth Greenglass testified that they had given Rosenberg atomic information and sketches procured from the Los Alamos Project, that they had received in turn from Rosenberg $500 and a torn half of a dollar bill which could serve as an introduction to a Russian agent.

THE PROSECUTION PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE, DIRECT OR CIRCUMSTANTIAL, TO SUPPORT ANY OF THE ABOVE ALLEGATIONS.

THE ROSENBERGS CATEGORICALLY DENIED ALL THE CHARGES.

It thus became a question of one person's word against another's. Let us investigate the integrity and credibility of the above three key witnesses:

Max Elitcher did cooperate with the FBI, provided the sole corroborating evidence against Julius Rosenberg, which the government needed. This testimony allowed Elitcher, an electrical engineer and former classmate of Rosenberg's, to escape a perjury charge hanging over his head that could have sent him to jail for 5 years and ruined him economically for life. Elitcher had previously signed a false statement when applying for a signal corps job.

David and Ruth Greenglass. David Greenglass faced a possible death sentence in New Mexico for turning over to Harry Gold for $500 secret information on the Los Alamos Atomic Project. Ruth, his wife, was implicated with him. As a result of their testimony, Ruth Greenglass won complete immunity and was not even mentioned in the final indictment. David Greenglass won a mercifully 15-year sentence, with a possible 3 years off for good behavior.

Thus, the case against the Rosenbergs, which brought death sentence for them, was built entirely by the allegations of the Greenglasses, self-confessed spies, and by Elitcher, whose testimony saved him from a 5-year perjury jail and professional ruin.

THE QUESTIONS

Why the Rosenbergs?

Why the verdict of guilt?

Why the death penalty?

The verdict of guilty, we must now be obvious to the unprejudiced observer, was the result not of evidence and testimony, but of the McCarthy-McCarran hysteria which surrounded the case. Until the Rosenbergs were involved, the government could point to dozens of so-political espionage. None of the self-confessed spies involved had any political motive; they engaged in espionage for money, and for money alone, and the case might have indicated nothing more than that money (like mink coats) can make traitors of men. But once the Rosenbergs were involved, politics became the motivating factor, and the government proceeded to prove this by the evidence noted above.

Finally, the barbaric death sentence rests not upon the seriousness of the charge (Remember Oppenheimer, Urey, and Groves were never called), but upon the myth of atomic secrecy. Despite the admission by the Atomic Energy Commission that Russia and other countries have known the scientific secrets of atom bomb manufacture since 1940, the death penalty for the Rosenbergs is a public declaration by the government that the atomic MYTH must not be tampered with. And in view of the fact that the Rosenbergs are not proven guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt, the death sentence becomes unspeakably brutal and inhuman.

100-107111-1B116

REACTIONS

[illegible] Ethel Rosenberg [illegible] was transferred to the Sing Sing Death House: she said [illegible] we say again that we are the victims of [illegible] of political dragnets known in America. My husband [illegible] two people, but this case has significance which transcends [illegible] personal level. The entire population of America will be adversely affected by our prosecution."

[illegible] in THE FORWARD, New York daily, of April 6, 1951 — When [illegible] of the same Ethel Julius and John Rosenberg were sentenced [illegible] death, great groups all over [illegible]. For a moment we sat as [illegible] stunned and found it hard to catch our breathe. We are certain [illegible] day also said the old men felt this way. From our hearts [illegible] the cruel Death Sentence. The Horrible memory Jewish home [illegible] be scattered by this tragedy."

[illegible] in THE DAY, New York daily, of April 6, 1951 — The Death [illegible] should be changed. — And in the same paper that day, M. [illegible] Green, said it is not only the death penalty imposed by Judge Kaufman [illegible] the interpretation of the trial, which left many [illegible] and especially the Jews with a feeling of bitterness. — [illegible] Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the [illegible] Congress, blasted the sentence of Judge Kaufman's sentence.

[illegible] Times, April 8, 1951, in an article by William Reuben, commenting on the Supreme Court decision upholding the death sentence, said: "[illegible] Court's decision has had the effect shown in 43 page [illegible] for blasting Stalin. Yet in America, it has set the precedent for [illegible] political [illegible] described as "[illegible]" merits [illegible] penalty of death. It has given clear warning that Americans [illegible] not for protection of their constitutional rights, not to [illegible] Bill of Rights but for [illegible] consideration is McCarthy, or McCarran, McCarthy or a Brennan might drop, or show them."

[illegible] New York Day, April [illegible] — [illegible] Rosenberg [illegible] sponsored by: Chaplain (Maj) Joseph Brainin, David Alman, [illegible] Ayres, Sam Van Aken, Prof. E. Barry Burgess, Alice Hill [illegible], Gene J. Dixon, Prof. Roberta Green, Dr. Katherine Dodd, Dr. W.E. B. Du Bois, Gertrude Ross, Wilda Frank, Rabbi Louis D. Gross, Louise [illegible], Rev. George Kennedy, Hon. Robert Morss Lovett, Dr. John [illegible], and others.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

[illegible] President Truman and U.S. Attorney General [illegible] that they are still looking to a reversal of the verdicts [illegible] in the Rosenberg Case.

[illegible] your fraternal organization to discuss [illegible] and to act upon it.

[illegible] this First Step as widely as possible.

Support the San Francisco Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.

San Francisco Provisional Committee
to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
260 Hayes Street
San Francisco 2, California

[illegible] to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg [illegible] bring the facts of the case to a [illegible] and to prevent their final death.

[illegible] of this First Sheet for distribution [illegible] in the Committee's work.

100-407111-1B116

Now in its 168th hour...

THE PRAYER VIGIL AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS!

Only 9 days left before date of execution

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. . . . If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

DR. HAROLD C. UREY, NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER, FAMED NUCLEAR SCIENTIST.

"I cannot b ut deplore the death sentence upon the Rosenbergs both in itself and from its inevitable effect upon British and world opinion."

CHARLES E. RAVEN, CHAPLAIN TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

"I have accepted the verdict of the court. . . . [However] I believe that our country is strong and great-hearted enough to be merciful. Should therefore an appeal be made to the court or to the President of the U.S. for clemency and for commutation of the death sentence, I am prepared to add my name to such a plea."

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

WRITE OR WIRE PRES. TRUMAN TODAY

Ask him to grant executive clemency to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1060 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-18

Rec'd from an anonymous source at White Plains
R.G. on 1/20/53 WHalen

100-107111-18117

Along with Clergymen, Scientists, Writers, Attorneys . . .

[redacted] b7D

MUSICIANS DEMAND CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS!

EMERGENCY RALLY AND CONCERT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 8:00 P.M.

HOTEL CAPITOL

8th Avenue at 51st Street

JOIN WITH 1200 OTHERS!

Among the Artists to appear are:

Paul Robeson

Alan Booth - Pianist
Morris Carnovsky - Stage & screen actor
Robert de Cormier - Conductor
Lillian Goodman - Soprano
Beulah Richardson - Actress and Poet
Earl Robinson - Composer
Jewish Young Folksingers' Chorus

Other artists to be announced

HELP BUILD AN OVERFLOW AUDIENCE!

. . . MOBILIZE MASS APPEAL TO PRES. TRUMAN FOR CLEMENCY!

Bring a party of your family and friends — tell your neighbors in the community, shop and office.

Enclosed are tickets at $1.00. Kindly remit in enclosed self-addressed envelope. If you can't attend, please send a contribution.

Additional tickets available at: Jewish Music Alliance
Room 710, 1 Union Square West
WA-4-8311

Bookfair
135 West 44th Street
LU-2-3195

AUSPICES: MUSICIANS COMMITTEE TO SECURE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
Room 710, One Union Square West, New York City
WA-4-8311

b7D

[redacted]

100-107111-1B118

BOX #2
050 SIXTH AVE.
EW YORK 10, N. Y.

NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 7
8-PM
1952

BUILD YOUR FUTURE
WISELY.
U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

[redacted] 520

160-10711-18119

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N.Y.
BRyant 9-9694

November 6, 1952

Station Manager
WNBC
41-30 58th Woodside
Long Island, New York

Dear Sir:

This Committee is presently engaged in attempting to secure Executive Clemency by President Truman on behalf of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were convicted last year of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union during World War II.

We are taking this plea to the public in the hope that the President will recognize that he will get substantial support from our fellow citizens for such a step.

It is our hope that time can be arranged over your station for an airing of this plea for clemency.

This plea does not take issue with the findings of any of the various courts through which this case has been processed, nor does it involve criticism of any agency or policy of government. It is a plea made necessary by what we believe to be an excessive sentence possibly arrived at by the best of, though, in our opinion, mistaken motives.

Among those who are available for speaking, either in person or on tape, are Rabbi Abraham Cronbach of Cincinnati, Rabbi Meyer Sharff, of New York, Reverend Ames Murphy of Boston, Professor Ephraim Cross of New York, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois of New York, as well as members of our Committee.

We would, of course, be willing to submit these speeches in advance to you for clearance.

I think you will agree that such a program is in the public interest, and therefore suitable for your station, either as part of a round-table or similar program, or as a separate program in itself.

We would appreciate an early reply, in view of the possibility that present motions now before the courts may be exhausted within a few weeks.

Sincerely,

David Alman

David Alman
Executive Secretary

b7D

100-107111-1B119

[redacted]

[redacted]

NYC

ALG

[redacted]

100-10711-18 100

Dear [redacted] December 31, 1952

b7D

I have been a religious man all my [redacted] b7D
Year. I believe Christian faith is sharing
living as well as believing. Ethel & Julius
Rosenberg, who were convicted of conspiring
to commit espionage, are scheduled to die the
week of January 12th, unless clemency is
granted.

God & we can save them. There
will be a delegation including some ministers in
Washington January 5th to see President
Truman & Congressmen. Would you please
pray at your church for clemency for the
Rosenberg either January 4th or 11th or both?
Thank you

Most sincerely yours

b7D

[redacted]

100-107111-1B120

-Copy-

THE UNION CHURCH OF BAY RIDGE
Presbyterian

Ridge Boulevard at 80th and 81st Streets
Brooklyn 9, New York

John Paul Jones
Richard Davis Leonard
Barbara Manzella Leonard
Ministers

October 22, 1952

Mr. Emanuel H. Bloch,
401 Broadway,
New York 13, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bloch:

I am not an expert in legal matters, and I have not made an exhaustive study of the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. I know enough about the case, however, to have serious doubts about some matters of due process, and I am advised by lawyers in whom I have confidence that there is indeed a grave question in this respect. Furthermore, the atmosphere in which the trial was conducted made a fair trial almost impossible. I believe a recent conviction for fraud in the Internal Revenue Bureau was set aside on the ground that the hostile opinion in the community thwarted a fair trial. Surely the decision in that case ought to give us pause about a trial where human life is at stake in the atmosphere of fear and suspicion prevalent today.

On one thing I have a firm and unshakable opinion. It is that no conviction for alleged espionage where Russia was concerned at a time when Russia was a military ally should carry with it the death sentence. People convicted of trafficking with the enemy both in this country and in other countries have drawn only prison terms. I, therefore, hope you will be successful in the event a new trial is not granted in persuading the Court to commute the death sentence to some term of imprisonment. If a serious miscarriage of justice has taken place there will be opportunity to correct it, at least in part. The Rosenberg case is surely not one to break the precedent of no capital punishment being meted out for treason when the country was not at war.

You may quote this letter in full, if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John Paul Jones

JOHN PAUL JONES

100-107111-1B121

Room 2
1050 Sixth Avenue
at 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

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Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

November 26, 1952

Dear Friend:

The fate of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is now in the hands of President Harry S. Truman. Their execution may take place during the Chanukah and Christmas season, unless he spares their lives.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States are writing to President Truman asking him to grant executive clemency to these two young parents. We ask you to add your voice.

We believe that the enclosed material will show that our country's history of merciful justice will be served by a Presidential commutation of sentence.

In order to bring the appeal for clemency to millions of our fellow-Americans we need fifty thousand dollars for newspaper ads, radio and television programs, and to send out letters like this one. The enclosed envelope is for your contribution. Your check may be made payable to Joseph Brainin, Chairman, or to the National Rosenberg Committee. We hope you will want to help.

We pray that you will write to the President on behalf of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and their two young sons.

Sincerely,

DAVID ALMAN, Executive Secretary

100-107111 1B122

230

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS

U.S. BRIGADIER-GENERAL HENRY CLAY NEWCOMER (Ret.); REV. CLARENCE D. HERRIOTT; HONORABLE SIDNEY SILVERMAN, *Member of Parliament, Great Britain;* PROF. STEPHEN LOVE, *Chairman of Character and Fitness Committee of Illinois Supreme Court;* WALDO FRANK, *author;* REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, *Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn;* RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH; DOROTHY DAY, *editor of the Catholic Worker;* RABBI G. GEORGE FOX, *Chicago;* RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF; DR. GEORGE SARTON, *Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University and President of the International Union of the History of Science;* RABBI FRANKLIN COHN; HONORABLE ROBERT KENNY, *Los Angeles;* DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS, *author;* REV. AMOS MURPHY, *Boston;* REV. STEPHEN FRITCHMAN, *Los Angeles;* YURI SUHL, *author;* NELSON ALGREN, *author;* A GROUP OF CATHOLIC LAYMEN *associated with the Catholic Worker* (Michael Harrington, Robert Ludlow, Martin Corbin, Isidore Fazio, Charles McCormack, Roger O'Neil); PROF. ROLAND H. BAINTON, *Yale Divinity School;* DR. PAUL L. WHITELY, *Franklin and Marshall College;* RABBI ABRAHAM HORVITZ; REV. H. H. LESTER; RABBI L. A. GREENBERG; REV. THOMAS McCANDLESS, *New York;* REV. CHARLES WILLIAM CAMPBELL, *Albany, N. Y.,* and thousands of others. (*Names of organizations and institutions are given solely for purposes of identification.*)

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1060 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y.

THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE!

Hundreds of Thousands of Americans are appealing for Clemency!

Their Execution Is Set for the Week of January 12th!

For the first time Americans have been sentenced to death on such a charge!

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were indicted in 1950, charged with giving atomic information to Russia in 1944, when she was our wartime ally. With their co-defendant, Morton Sobell, they protest their innocence to this day. On April 5, 1951 Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case believes there is definitely grave and reasonable doubt about their conviction. But now, with the United States Supreme Court having turned down their request for a review of their conviction, the immediate issue is not their guilt or innocence, or the vindication that time may bring. *The issue now is to save the Rosenbergs from the unjust, un-American, unequal sentence of death. No other Americans, not even convicted traitors like Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, received the death sentence.*

EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEM GUILTY PROTEST THE UNJUST SENTENCE AND ARE ASKING THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUTATION

What you can do to save their lives:

1. Send a letter, telegram, or postal card to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C., respectfully urging him to commute the death sentence for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

2. Send a similar letter, telegram, or postal card to your own Congressman and to your two U.S. Senators, respectfully urging them to speak up for a commutation of sentence for the Rosenbergs.

3. Ask your organization—church, union, synagogue, veterans' group, women's auxiliary, social club, bridge club—to send similar letters to the President and other officials.

4. Write to your local newspaper, and visit the editors with a delegation, asking them to speak up editorially for equal American justice for the Rosenbergs.

5. Send a contribution—whatever you can afford—to the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case to help us carry on this work. Checks may be made out to Joseph Brainin, Chairman, 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. Tell us what else you think should be done.

World Public Opinion Clamors For Clemency

DOROTHY THOMPSON,
The Washington Star, April 12, 1951:

"The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . in 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

MAX LERNER,
New York Post, June 19, 1952:

"I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

The Very Rev. C. W. CHANDLER,
Dean of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, October 27, 1952:

"As heinous as the offense may be, it does not merit a death sentence, and I cannot believe that in this instance the president of your republic will allow this sentence to stand."

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD,
Article by editor Hillel Rogoff, October 16, 1952:

"When Judge Irving Kaufman passed the death sentence on the Rosenbergs, the Jewish Daily Forward wrote that the sentence was too horrible. We have not changed our minds. . . . We express our hope that the president will save the Rosenbergs from the electric chair."

THE NATION,
Article by Arthur Garfield Hays, November 8, 1952:

". . . We may try, but we cannot forget the two young Rosenberg children. . . . It is the damnable death penalty that causes the uneasiness."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL,
Column by Jacob Glatstein, October 29, 1952:

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

JEWISH DAY,
Editorial, October 16, 1952:

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

THE CHURCHMAN,
(Protestant Episcopalian), in an editorial on November 1, 1952:

"The Churchman feels that the death sentence, in the light of the far milder treatment of more serious offenders than the Rosenbergs, is both excessive and cruel. We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the name of the United States. . . ."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1952

The New York Times

JERUSALEM SENDS A ROSENBERG PLEA

20 Religious Leaders Urge Truman Clemency for Pair Condemned as Spies

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18—Twenty prominent rabbis and religious leaders in Jerusalem appealed to President Truman today to exercise clemency on behalf of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The New York couple is under sentence to die in Sing Sing Prison for passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

The petition, sponsored by Jerusalem relatives of the condemned spies, said:

"We can hardly imagine that Jews anywhere in the world and especially in a glorious country like the United States should act against the interests of the state. At least we are not aware of such an instance in the long history of the Jewish people.

"Similarly, we are not aware of any precedent where a person has been condemned to death in a democratic country for offenses alleged in this case in time of peace."

The rabbis appealed to the President's sense of humanity and noted that the prisoners could do no further harm if they remained in custody.

The signatories included officials of the Chief Rabbinate and well-known Talmudic sages. Chief Rab-

JOSEPH BRAININ, Chairman

1050 Sixth Ave.

Room 2 New York 18, N. Y.

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PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
The White House
Washington, D. C.

100-107111-1B122

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

I believe that the death sentence was unusually severe, particularly in view of the milder 10-year sentences given to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, who were convicted of the more serious crime of treason.

I hope that you grant the Rosenbergs Executive Clemency.

Sincerely,

100-107111-1B12

Purges Mean War?

surpasses (as all Soviet statistics do) anything conjured up by the Borgias. What we are probably witnessing is the liquidation, first, of the smaller fry of one faction by the leaders of another. We shall know who is winning by who are included in future batches of victims.

Meanwhile, the convulsions that have seized the heart of the Soviet Empire have shot out to every part of its periphery. Here, the common denominator is indeed a pronounced and most virulent anti-Semitism, for a number of reasons.

In Russia, the numerous Jewish members of the Communist hierarchy were murdered in the 1930s; since then, the Jews have not been much of a problem, for without any of their kind at the top (L. M. Kaganovich is simply Stalin's personal Jew) the Soviet regime has been able uninhibitedly and methodically to eradicate the last vestiges of Jewish life in Russia, including probably the wholesale deportation and liquidation of Jews. But in the satellites—especially in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and East Germany—Jews were prominent in the postwar Communist regimes. The problem that was solved in one fell swoop for Czechoslovak Communism is now being similarly resolved in East Germany and Hungary. Bulgaria, Rumania and Poland will soon follow. In each instance, of course, the same fate is meted out to unwanted non-Jewish Communist leaders.

In the satellites, as distinguished from the Soviet state, the Jews are more necessary as scapegoats not only for the classic reason that general discontent must somehow be diverted, but also—and this is perhaps immediately more important—to place in power "native sons." They are more reliable in that they are less "cosmopolitan," are more likely to keep in check the native population, and may be less finicky about working up a militarist-nationalist spirit against the West. The Kremlin is appealing, that is to say, not only to the Nazi remnants of Germany, but to all of the feudal, reactionary, nationalist and militarist remnants that have fastened on Central and Eastern European society for generations. The powder keg of Europe has lain here since the end of Napoleon, and it is the fuse to it that we now see being ignited again.

Lest there be any doubt of this, the almost simultaneous uncovering of a conspiracy in West Germany and a spy ring in Vienna should lay it to rest. The first involved a group in West Germany led by eight prominent former members of the Nazi party. According to the British, their object was to restore Nazism to power, but one can be certain that the conspirators were not without Soviet connections. As the New York *Times* editorialized: "The specter of another Nazi-Soviet conspiracy analogous to the Hitler-Stalin Pact is rising on the European horizon. . . ." The Viennese plot, broken up by the U.S., was frankly linked to the Soviets through the second secretary of the Soviet Embassy here, Yuri V. Novikov. (Why the U.S. merely sent him home, and did not arrest him, perhaps Acheson will explain in his memoirs.)

THESE PLOTS and the purges have for their ultimate objective the weakening of the United States as preparation for war. The incessant charges that we are building a "fifth column" behind the Iron Curtain (one wishes we were) mean just the reverse: Soviet fifth-column activities behind our lines are being stepped up. The Soviet press in the past fortnight has become even more virulently anti-American than usual, literally bristling with epithets that would be unprintable anywhere else. In this respect as well, the inner and outer aspects of Communism are uncomfortably reminiscent of Nazism in the days immediately preceding the attack on Poland. Added to this is a new Nazi-like military braggadocio. *Red Star*, the organ of the Soviet Army, was selected last week as the medium through which to boast that the Soviets are turning out "significantly greater quantities" of all kinds of arms than during World War II. It even announced that the Soviet economy "can be in a short time transferred to a war basis," which probably means that it already is on a war footing. Finally, *Red Star* compared the present purges with those of the 1930s which "uprooted a network of enemy agents" and paved the way for the aggressions against Poland and Finland.

Anne O'Hare McCormick notes, in the *Times*, the brazen indifference to Western public opinion implied in Stalin's "deliberate evocation of the spirit of Hitler." Almost alone among the commentators, she concludes as we have that these Hitler-like, paranoiac manifestations are ominous. "The adoption of the Hitler *motif* is so reckless," she writes, "that even the optimists who believe that Russia is weaker than we think and has no intention of starting a fight wonder if someone in the Kremlin has thrown caution to the winds."

We wonder if the new forces in Washington are taking this possibility into account. And if, taking it into account, they are keeping our powder dry.

The New Leader for January 26, 1953. Volume XXXVI, Number 4. Published weekly by The New Leader Association, Inc. Publication Office: 34 N. Crystal Street, East Stroudsburg, Pa. Editorial and executive office: 7 E. 15th Street, New York 3, N. Y. Telephone: Algonquin 5-8844. Price this issue: 15 cents; $5 a year. Foreign and Canadian $6. Entered as 2nd class matter in post office at East Stroudsburg, Pa., May 9, 1956.

100-107111-1B123

Rosenberg Clemency Backers Comment on Red Anti-Semitism

Americans thus far have not reacted to Soviet anti-Semitism with the indignation and unanimity they once displayed toward Nazi anti-Semitism. The spectacle of the remnants of European Jewry—and we mean remnants, for only paltry thousands are left out of former millions—being extirpated by Communism, is one of the most pitiful ever beheld by man. It should warrant not just an outcry of horror and indignation that will reverberate throughout the world, but positive acts that will stay, if possible, the hands of the executioners. THE NEW LEADER therefore proposes that Americans:

1. Organize a worldwide petition drive protesting Red anti-Semitism and demanding that Stalin halt it and/or permit the survivors of European Jewry to emigrate.

2. Demand that the United Nations pass a resolution condemning the Soviet Union for practicing genocide.

3. Demand that the United Nations petition Soviet Russia and its satellites to permit the emigration of 2,500,000 Jews under their jurisdiction.

4. Publish in full the verbatim transcript of the Prague purge as a "Black Book of Red Anti-Semitism" and give it worldwide distribution.

In addition, churches, labor unions, fraternal bodies, foreign-language organizations, veterans groups, not to speak of the Congress itself, should pass resolutions and hold meetings protesting Soviet persecution of Jews and other minorities and religions.

We have already begun, as a magazine, to do whatever we can to arouse public sentiment. On Wednesday, January 14, we sent this telegram to thirty-five men and women whose names had appeared in the *Daily Worker* as asking for clemency for the Rosenbergs:

> "NOTE YOUR SUPPORT ROSENBERG CLEMENCY. IN NAME HUMAN RIGHTS WE ASK YOU MAKE EQUALLY FORTHRIGHT CONDEMNATION ANTI-SEMITIC PRAGUE TRIAL AND IMMINENT EXECUTION SOVIET JEWISH DOCTORS. PLEASE WIRE COLLECT PROTEST UP TO ONE HUNDRED WORDS."

Below are the replies we have received so far.

Rev. Willard Uphaus, who calls himself a "Christian pacifist," utilizes the occasion to attack our foreign policy rather than the issue at stake. Rockwell Kent paraphrases Molotov's well-known "Fascism is a matter of taste" in these words: "Zionism, like Fascism, is a political movement." Professor Shapley issues a one-sentence condemnation of anti-Semitism in general—but at other times, as when he headed the pro-Communist Waldorf "culture" meeting, he has never been known for such reticence. Robert Morss Lovett, too, who was once a liberal of some stature, demonstrates a peculiar blind spot when he writes that he "cannot be equally forthright" on Red anti-Semitism as on the Rosenberg case.

We suppose we ought to be thankful that others expressed themselves forthrightly. Albert Einstein, who has so often been used by the Communists (but who was recently attacked violently by Yuri Zhdanov), speaks out against "the perversion of justice which manifests itself in all the official trials staged by the Russian Government, not only that in Prague." Harold Urey, the atomic scientist, whose name was recently exploited in connection with the Rosenberg case, puts that case in proper perspective as something that "fades to complete insignificance compared to the Prague trial, the attacks on the nine doctors, and the imminent anti-Semitism in the U.S.S.R." And Rabbi Felshin, who has frequently adorned pro-Communist fronts, was perhaps most eloquent of all against the "Nazi-like terror and extermination instituted by Soviet authorities" against Jews. We fully expected, of course, the kind of responses we received from Rev. A. J. Muste, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Rev. Donald Harrington, Waldo Frank and other democrats who do not keep two sets of books.

While no effort should have been necessary to elicit these protests, in our time it is necessary to separate the wheat from the chaff in such matters—to isolate, if you will, the Rockwell Kents who view "Zionism" as "like Fascism." If the program enunciated above serves no other purpose, perhaps it will shake loose from their Stalinist shackles all who can be shaken loose, and leave fettered to them the tiny minority to whom tyranny is "people's democracy."

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach:

BEHIND THE ROSENBERG CASE, as well as that of the Russian physicians, sprawls the hideous barbarity of capital punishment. Capital punishment should be abolished everywhere. Still more vicious in both cases is the belief in the necessity of war. Without that belief, neither of those horrors could have arisen. The only way to abolish treason is to abolish war. The only way to abolish espionage is to abolish war. War is not national defense. War is national jeopardy. Our only national defense is international amity. This applies alike to Russia, to America and to all countries whatsoever.

Albert Einstein:

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING that the perversion of justice which manifests itself in all the official trials staged by the Russian Government, not only that in Prague, but also the earlier ones since the second half of the Thirties, deserves unconditional condemnation.

Another question is what can be done from here against the course of these contemptible methods and devices. A public statement by myself or somebody else would never reach effectively those whose attitude one wishes to influence. In this respect, you cannot compare the actions in favor of the Rosenbergs with the action you are proposing to me in the case of the Jewish doctors. I cannot see how such action could have any other effect than to fan the flames of mutual hatred.

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The most appropriate step would be, in my opinion, a kind of corporate condemnation from the side of recognized authorities in the field of science and scholarship. The advantage of such an action would be that it would be obviously independent from politics. If such pronouncement is to be made, it should be given to the whole press—this also to avoid the impression of an act of political propaganda.

Rabbi Max Felshin:

THE LATEST NEWS seeping through the cracks in the Iron Curtain is disturbing indeed to all men of good will in general and to the Jewish people in particular. In the light of these disturbing reports, the pious protestations that anti-Semitism is outlawed in Russia are utterly discredited and have become a hollow and bitter mockery. We have been watching with increasing misgivings and dismay the gradual liquidation of every vestige of Jewish culture in Soviet Russia, the disappearance of Yiddish writers, the hoax of Biro-Bidjan, the cloaked persecutions of so-called "cosmopolitans," etc., etc. But we have kept our silence for fear of worsening the precarious situation. We reasoned that, as long as anti-Semitism had not become an open, official, avowed instrumentality of Soviet state policy, we would use moral restraint and refrain from provocative criticism. We felt that, since everyone was suppressed in Russia, the Jews were no exception among the rest of the population.

Today, however, the bursting lid of special Jewish persecution is brazenly and shamelessly off. The recent brutal Prague purge of "Zionists," followed now by the fantastic charges and medieval blood accusations against Jewish doctors, is the foul culmination of a systematic policy of Soviet suppression and subversion of Jewish religion, culture and consciousness, regardless of the frightening consequences and the dangerous threat to the remnant of our people in Russia.

We must protest in God's name, in the name of humanity and civilization, and cry out against the current Nazi-like terror and extermination instituted by Soviet authorities and satellites against their Jewish subjects. We call upon the United Nations and all peace- and justice-loving peoples of the earth to halt these kangaroo-court assassinations and exhort Russia to stop these inhuman persecutions against a defenseless people that is still smarting under the painful memories of the recent cold-blooded, brutal murder of six million of our innocent brothers and sisters. For the sake of elementary humanity, they must desist from these nefarious judicial murders.

Waldo Frank:

MY PLEA FOR COMMUTING the Rosenbergs' death sentence for reasons of humanity and international policy implies no endorsement of the Communists, whose leaders probably wish them to be martyred. Stalin's latest line in the Prague trial and the alleged doctors' plot is an inevitable outcome of that basic degradation of man which I analyzed years ago as implicit in Communist doctrine. Every organized assault on the human spirit sooner or later allies itself with anti-Semitism. But the world's protest against this infamy so reminiscent of Hitler may remind Moscow in time of Hitler's fate.

Rabbi David Graubart:

I CONDEMN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS the anti-Semitic Prague trial and imminent execution of the Soviet Jewish doctors. To quote my dear friend and eminent author and thinker, Maurice Samuel: "Here we have the last fragments of an illusion of some liberals and progressives who thought Soviet Communism free of anti-Semitism. We see now most clearly that Russian Communism and the Communism of the satellite countries have anti-Semitism as their concomitant." Again I want to say as forthrightly as possible that I condemn the Prague trial and imminent execution of the Soviet Jewish doctors.

Rev. Donald Harrington:

THE CYNICAL SOVIET USE of anti-Semitism in the Prague trial and imminent execution of Soviet Jewish doctors fills the whole world with loathing and horror. It places the two and a half million Jews remaining behind the Iron Curtain in imminent danger of destruction. Every peaceful resort of our country and the United Nations should be mobilized to defend and save those now defenseless. The world's horror and condemnation should be instantaneous, unmistakable and universal.

Rev. John Haynes Holmes:

HERE IS MY PROTEST against the mounting horrors of our day. I make no distinction between the perpetrators of these cruelties and crimes. All men who wield the weapons of torture and terror against their fellow men must stand equally condemned. Whether it be capital punishment in this country or the purges in Soviet Russia, the indictment is the same. From all these monstrous evils our civilization must be delivered if it is to survive.

Rev. John Paul Jones:

IN VIEW OF THE ASTONISHMENT and apprehension felt by Americans at the arrest of the Soviet doctors and the terrible specter of extended anti-Semitism implied in these arrests—as well as by the recent Prague trial—I suggest THE NEW LEADER initiate an appeal that the United Nations request the presence of UN observers at the forthcoming trial of the Soviet doctors. Direct American protests or suggestion of observers is made difficult by our principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. But the UN would be within its rights, and, if the Soviets are in good faith, they should welcome impartial observers.

Rockwell Kent:

THE ROSENBERGS WERE CHARGED with espionage in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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favor of an honored wartime ally. Even if guilty, the extreme sentence would be unwarranted. They were tried in an hysterical atmosphere. The judge showed extreme bias. Having studied the evidence, I am convinced they were not guilty. The Russian doctors are charged with murder. If proven guilty, they deserve strong punishment. I am against capital punishment ever. Whatever the Russian courts may decide, my own judgment must wait until I have read the full evidence. Anti-Semitism, like Jim Crow and all racial or religious bias against persons anywhere, is detestable and unworthy of civilized human beings. Zionism, like Fascism, is a political movement.

Prof. Robert Morss Lovett:

DESPITE MY DISTRUST of press reports, I share your feeling that the Prague and Moscow trials were political and possibly anti-Semitic. I cannot be as forthright in my comment as I was on the Rosenberg case, because I lack specific evidence of prejudice on the part of the judge and subornation of testimony by the prosecution. I will join you in asking clemency if foreign interference would be helpful. I am against capital punishment always and everywhere.

Prof. Philip Morrison:

THE KEY HUMAN RIGHT of the day is the right to peace. Against a war in this day of the thermonuclear bomb the most determined effort of every humane person has to be directed. It is for this broadest of reasons that I was anxious to see clemency extended to Mr. and Mrs. Julius Rosenberg. For the unprecedented death sentence for espionage given to them cannot have any result but to strain still more the bonds of reason which still allow us to believe that men here and in the Soviet can find the way to coexist. It is for the same reason, then, that I would urge upon the Soviet Government and courts, if I had any means to reach them with my opinion, that they too show clemency and magnanimity in dealing with all alleged acts of espionage, especially when there is about the charge the air of the terrible tension of the times, and the evil heritage of a decade of war and hatred. Only in calmness and in clemency can the great powers of today show that they too look forward to a time, not of war, but of peace and healing.

A. J. Muste:

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY to express my sense of outrage at the latest Communist purges and especially at the injection of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. That Stalinism has descended to this level is tragic but not unexpected. For years, I have done all in my power to warn pacifists and other believers in freedom that organizational collaboration for peace or other objectives with Stalinists or their fronts can only lead to confusion and harm. Non-Communist European correspondents report that the purges are creating a revulsion against Communism and considerably lessening anti-American feeling. They and I believe that the example of clemency in the Rosenberg case would emphasize this trend. Refusal would tend to reverse it.

Prof. H. Richard Niebuhr:

NO CHRISTIAN CAN READ the dispatches about the charges against doctors in Russia or the reports of the Prague trial, not to speak of the early purges in Soviet Europe, without being moved to anger, grief and protest. Whether these are parts of an anti-Semitic movement, as many fear, or the expressions of social paranoia, they horribly illuminate the demonic character of ultra-nationalism now represented by Communism as once by Fascism and Nazism.

Prof. Harlow Shapley:

I AM UNRESERVEDLY OPPOSED to anti-Semitism wherever it is practiced or advocated.

Rev. Willard Uphaus:

AS A CHRISTIAN PACIFIST, I positively condemn the use of terror of any kind against any human being in any country, West or East, and that includes the death penalty as a punishment. I just as strongly condemn our foreign policy, which is willing to spend one hundred million dollars on Operation "X," designed to promote the kind of subversion which we condemn in others. It is too early to become self-righteous.

Harold C. Urey:

MANY OF US FEEL that the Rosenberg conviction is based on doubtful testimony and that the punishment is too severe. But the whole case fades to complete insignificance compared to the Prague trial, the attacks on the nine doctors, and the imminent anti-Semitism in the U.S.S.R. In this country, mistakes are made by those who are mostly men of good intentions. In the "workers' paradise" of the U.S.S.R., gross injustices are done intentionally by Government officials directed by men with cast-iron hearts and minds at the very top. No need to read the evidence. There isn't any. But I protest these crimes and I hope others do, even though one expects that the protest will fall on the deafest ears in the whole world.

No Reply

As of 4 p. m. Tuesday, January 20, six days after our telegram went out, no replies had been received from the following:

Nelson Algren	Rev. John H. Melish
Morris Carnovsky	Rev. William H. Melish
Howard Da Silva	Prof. J. H. Randall Jr.
Arnaud D'Usseau	Anton Refregier
Rev. Stephen Fritchman	Paul Robeson
Dashiell Hammett	Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Rev. John H. Lathrop	Mary Church Terrell
Ray Lev	Mary Van Kleeck
Frederick J. Libby	Rev. Harry F. Ward

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Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-8694

November 26, 1952

Dear Friend:

The fate of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is now in the hands of President Harry S. Truman. Their execution may take place during the Chanukah and Christmas season, unless he spares their lives.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States are writing to President Truman asking him to grant executive clemency to these two young parents. We ask you to add your voice.

We believe that the enclosed material will show that our country's history of merciful justice will be served by a Presidential commutation of sentence.

In order to bring the appeal for clemency to millions of our fellow-Americans we need fifty thousand dollars for newspaper ads, radio and television programs, and to send out letters like this one. The enclosed envelope is for your contribution. Your check may be made payable to Joseph Brainin, Chairman, or to the National Rosenberg Committee. We hope you will want to help.

We pray that you will write to the President on behalf of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and their two young sons.

Sincerely,
DAVID ALMAN, Executive Secretary

100-107111 - 1B194

JOSEPH BRAININ, Chairman

1050 Sixth Ave.

New York 18, N. Y.

Room 2

100-107111-1B12K

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS

U.S. BRIGADIER-GENERAL HENRY CLAY NEWCOMER (Ret.); REV. CLARENCE D. HERRIOTT; HONORABLE SIDNEY SILVERMAN, *Member of Parliament, Great Britain;* PROF. STEPHEN LOVE, *Chairman of Character and Fitness Committee of Illinois Supreme Court;* WALDO FRANK, *author;* REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, *Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn;* RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH; DOROTHY DAY, *editor of the Catholic Worker;* RABBI G. GEORGE FOX, *Chicago;* RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF; DR. GEORGE SARTON, *Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University and President of the International Union of the History of Science;* RABBI FRANKLIN COHN; HONORABLE ROBERT KENNY, *Los Angeles;* DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS, *author;* REV. AMOS MURPHY, *Boston;* REV. STEPHEN FRITCHMAN, *Los Angeles;* YURI SUHL, *author;* NELSON ALGREN, *author;* A GROUP OF CATHOLIC LAYMEN *associated with the Catholic Worker* (Michael Harrington, Robert Ludlow, Martin Corbin, Isidore Fazio, Charles McCormack, Roger O'Neil); PROF. ROLAND H. BAINTON, *Yale Divinity School;* DR. PAUL L. WHITELY, *Franklin and Marshall College;* RABBI ABRAHAM HORVITZ; REV. H. H. LESTER; RABBI L. A. GREENBERG; REV. THOMAS MCCANDLESS, *New York;* REV. CHARLES WILLIAM CAMPBELL, *Albany, N. Y.,* and thousands of others. (*Names of organizations and institutions are given solely for purposes of identification.*)

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y.

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100-107111-1B124

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1952

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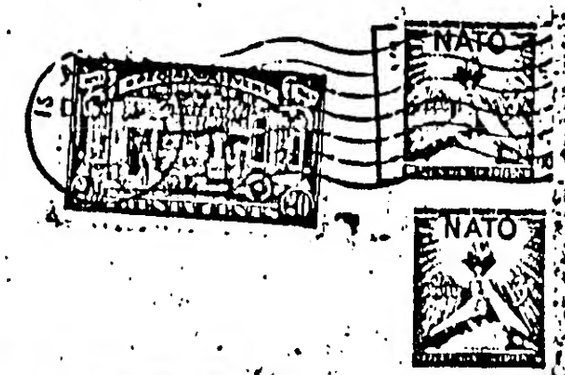
1B124

Room 2
1050 Sixth Avenue
at 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.



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YOU have read Mr. Pritt's learned and dispassionate analysis of the trial and the evidence as a result of which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg face execution.

To save their lives you must:

1 Write or wire the President at the White House in Washington, asking him to use his powers of executive clemency to spare the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg.

2 Pass this pamphlet on to a friend or to the editor of your newspaper, with the suggestion that it be excerpted as a news story and commented on editorially.

3 Many thousands of dollars are necessary to bring this Appeal to the President to millions of our fellow-Americans. Please send a contribution, check, cash or money order, to the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 6th Ave., New York 18, N. Y. Checks may be made out to JOSEPH BRAININ, Chairman.

4 Write the address below for additional copies of this document to distribute to others who may add their voices to yours in the plea for clemency. They are available at 20 for $1, $5 per 100, $25 per thousand, postpaid.

Nat'l Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 6th Ave., New York 18, N. Y. *BRyant 9-9694*

THE ROSENBERG CASE

An Analysis by

D. N. PRITT

World-Famous British Lawyer

A Case On America's Conscience

On Nov. 17, 1953, the Supreme Court of the United States, with Mr. Justice Hugo Black dissenting, refused to review the convictions and death sentences of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on charges of "conspiracy to commit" espionage for the Soviet Union. The atmosphere in which their trial was conducted and the methods employed to obtain their convictions have raised grave doubts in the minds of people all over the world as to their guilt.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg have maintained their complete innocence from the start, and have until now discouraged pleas for clemency in the hope of vindication through the courts.

The Circuit Court of Appeals, in denying their first plea for a reversal, expressed the view that a higher court might consider altering the unprecedented death sentence. However, in its final denial of a review, the Supreme Court through Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter stated that it did not have this power.

These tormented young American parents therefore have but one hope of living for the day of their vindication and a future of freedom with their two children. That final hope is executive clemency through commutation of their death sentences by the President of the United States.

To help win the broadest support for executive clemency, this examination of the trial record by one of the outstanding figures in Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence is herewith reprinted. The reader is urged to consider his arguments carefully and urge others to consider them; and to add your voice to the millions now appealing to the White House in Washington for executive clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

[illegible] 176 [illegible]

Printed in U. S. A.

DENIS NOWELL PRITT, author of this brilliant analysis of the Rosenberg trial, is one of the veteran senior members of the English Bar: a Queen's (King's) Counsel since 1927. For many years a Labour MP and chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Bentham Committee for Poor Litigants, he presided in Sept., 1933, over the Reichstag Fire inquiry in London. The inquiry—unlike the Berlin trial—considered the evidence soberly, indicted Goering whom the world now knows to have been the real incendiary.

In presenting his analysis, Mr. Pritt writes: "I must state my qualifications for this work. In my 43 years as an English barrister I have had considerable experience both in trial and in Appellate work. In the latter, I have had to study in detail many hundreds of Records of cases from all parts of the British Empire and Commonwealth, including India, in all of which countries the procedure is very similar to that of the U. S. A.; and I have studied also a certain number of Records from the U. S. A. itself. To form an estimate of the value which the evidence given in the Rosenberg case should possess in the eyes of impartial lawyers trained in Anglo-Saxon legal traditions, is thus work of the sort to which I have devoted a large part of my time as a barrister.

"I have studied the Record carefully, putting aside as far as humanly possible anything I had previously learned about the case, and have reached certain conclusions about both the conviction and the sentence, which I will state fully, with my reasons for these conclusions."

THE indictment on which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried was returned on Jan. 31, 1951, against five defendants in all—the two Rosenbergs, one Morton Sobell, one Yakovlev, and one David Greenglass. Greenglass pleaded guilty. The two Rosen-

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS

U.S. Brigadier-General Henry Clay Newcomer (Ret.); Rev. Clarence D. Herriott; Honorable Sidney Silverman, *Member of Parliament, Great Britain;* Prof. Stephen Love, *Chairman of Character and Fitness Committee of Illinois Supreme Court;* Waldo Frank, *author;* Rev. John Paul Jones, *Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn;* Rabbi Abraham Cronbach; Dorothy Day, *editor of the Catholic Worker;* Rabbi G. George Fox, *Chicago;* Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff; Dr. George Sarton, *Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University and President of the International Union of the History of Science;* Rabbi Franklin Cohn; Honorable Robert Kenny, *Los Angeles;* Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, *author;* Rev. Amos Murphy, *Boston;* Rev. Stephen Fritchman, *Los Angeles;* Yuji Suhl, *author;* Nelson Algren, *author;* A Group of Catholic Laymen *associated with the Catholic Worker* (Michael O'Neil); Prof. Roland H. Bainton, *Yale Divinity School;* Dr. Paul L. Whitely, *Franklin and Marshall College;* Rabbi Abraham Horvitz; Rev. H. H. Lester; Rabbi L. A. Greenberg; Rev. Thomas McCandless, *New York;* Rev. Charles William Campbell, *Albany, N. Y.,* and thousands of others. (*Names of organizations and institutions are given solely for purposes of identification.*)

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16125

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

I believe that the death sentence was unusually severe, particularly in view of the milder 10-year sentences given to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, who were convicted of the more serious crime of treason.

I hope that you grant the Rosenbergs Executive Clemency.

Sincerely,

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PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
The White House
Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH BRAININ, Chairman
1050 Sixth Ave.
New York 18, N. Y.

Room 2

1B 125

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

November 26, 1952

Dear Friend:

The fate of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is now in the hands of President Harry S. Truman. Their execution may take place during the Chanukah and Christmas season, unless he spares their lives.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States are writing to President Truman asking him to grant executive clemency to these two young parents. We ask you to add your voice.

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We pray that you will write to the President on behalf of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and their two young sons.

Sincerely,
DAVID ALMAN, Executive Secretary

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James & Alice Gray
127 Harding Ave
Long Beach
N.Y.

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From editorial in the *JEWISH CHRONICLE*, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 5, 1952

"We believe that President Truman ought to commute the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. . . . Justice in the United States must not be more vindictive than in other civilized countries."

From lead editorial in the *TORONTO HEBREW DAILY JOURNAL*, November 24, 1952

"It is also important to know that appealing to their president is not only the task of citizens of the United States. It is the duty of all right-minded liberal people in the entire world to let their voices be heard, and to appeal to the president.

"The example of the 22 Rabbis of Israel, who appealed directly to President Truman on behalf of the Rosenbergs, must serve as an example.

"We are of the opinion, that all liberal and progressive people in Canada must join in this appeal and ask President Truman to spare the lives of the Rosenbergs, because where the law is too harsh there is room for compassion. It is human to commit a crime, it is also human to forgive.

"In the case of the Rosenbergs, it is no excessive request that the death sentence not be carried out. Precedents for this are numberless."

From the *JEWISH WESTERN BULLETIN*, official organ of the Jewish Council of Vancouver

"The Bulletin does not question the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. We do feel, however, that the request for clemency directed to President Truman that he should commute the death sentence imposed on these people, is fully justified. . . .

"Finally, it should be noted that this statement represents the unanimous opinion of the Editorial Committee of this publication."

Issued by:

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

Comments from the Jewish Press on Clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

From article entitled "Justice and Compassion for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," by Hillel Rogoff, editor *JEWISH DAILY FORWARD*, November 29, 1952

"Those who are sincerely interested in the fate of the Rosenbergs should know that now there remains but one means by which they can be saved from the electric chair and that is to move President Truman to commute the death sentence to a lesser punishment. And the appeal to the President should be made on the ground of humaneness, compassion and mercy. . . . Now all energies must be exerted toward one goal—to stop the execution. If this should succeed, then those who believe in the possibility of vindicating them can atjempt to do so."

A Cable from Twenty Israeli Rabbis

WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO YOU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

Comments from the Jewish Press on Clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

From JERUSALEM POST, November 2, 1952

"There are, however, a number of reasons which have moved many people, though they have no doubt about the Rosenbergs' guilt, to press for a commutation of the sentence. Whatever the secrets transmitted by the Rosenbergs, they were extremely small cogs in a big wheel. Eminent physicists like May and Fuchs, on the other hand, who knew very well what they were doing, have come away with much milder sentences. The former is to be released from prison by the end of this year. To execute the smaller fry and free the higher ups after comparatively short prison sentences, is not the ordinary man's idea of impartial justice."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

In Winnipeg, Mr. Melvin Fenson, editor of THE JEWISH POST, the oldest Anglo-Jewish weekly in Western Canada, reprinted on his editorial page the full text of an appeal by Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, a noted American religious leader, asking for clemency for the Rosenbergs.

By H. Leivik, Yiddish poet, in THE JEWISH DAY, November 25, 1952

"From the profoundest depths of my conscience I wish to add my word of appeal to those of all other honest, non-partisan people who are appealing and who are impelled by no other motive than their obedience to the command of humanism and human mercy. And however small my word may be, I want through this, my word, to appeal to President Truman, to this man who, in the course of his presidency has on more than one occasion manifested wonderfully deep characteristics of human understanding, that the death sentence of the Rosenbergs, who were found guilty, should be commuted by him to imprisonment."

From the AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD, Minneapolis, Minn., November 28, 1952

"The unprecedented death sentence in peacetime, however, we believe is be a result of the anti-Communist hysteria prevailing in these days. In periods of hysteria, justice must be consciously raised above and protected against the temper of the times to keep the balance even. . . . It is our conviction that the American historic sense of justice calls for a presidential commutation in this case, and that the spirit of America in these days of hysteria will be more strengthened by a commutation than by the imposition of the death sentence."

From JEWISH NEWS, Detroit, Michigan, November 28, 1952

"The final verdict now is in the hands of President Truman, or should sentence be deferred again, it may be placed in the lap of President Eisenhower, after January 20. As in the instances of the Dreyfus Affair and the Sacco-Vanzetti Case, Israel's rabbis are following earlier precedents in which non-Americans and non-French pleaded the cause of American-Italians and a French Jew."

From column by Jacob Glatstein, JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, October 29, 1952

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From editorial in THE JEWISH DAY, October 16, 1952

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

By Haim Lieberman, JEWISH DAILY FORWARD, November 24, 1952

"Mr. President, God invested you with a part of his greatness, he gave you power of life and death over a sinful couple, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. We pray and hope that in the fateful decision that you must make about them, you will follow the path of mercy, the path of God."

From column by Rabbi Louis D. Gross in THE JEWISH EXAMINER, March 14, 1952

"After plowing through volumes of the evidence presented in this tragic case, I am not convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Rosenbergs are guilty.

". . . It is quite possible, and very disturbing, to feel that the hapless Rosenberg couple may have been victimized by the anti-Communist hysteria which has been sweeping this country with deadly effect."

From editorial in the Brooklyn JEWISH EXAMINER, October 24, 1952

"The value of the information transmitted to the Rosenbergs by the second-rate electrician David Greenglass, is arguable at best. The Journal of the American Association of Atomic Scientists as well as The Scientific American stated that these 'secrets' were not particularly important.

"German war criminals guilty of ghastly atrocities during World War II, as well as American traitors like Tokio Rose and Axis Sally, escaped the supreme penalty.

"It would seem from the above that the punishment of the Rosenbergs is unduly harsh."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1953.

EINSTEIN SUPPORTS ROSENBERG APPEAL

Prof. Albert Einstein, the venerable mathematician who lives in Princeton, N. J., announced that he had written the President Monday asking for mercy. His note said:

"Dear Mr. President:

"My conscience compels me to urge you to commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

"This appeal to you is prompted by the same reasons which were set forth so convincingly by my distinguished colleague, Harold C. Urey, in his letter of Jan. 5, 1953, to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"Respectfully yours,

"ALBERT EINSTEIN."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

After reading the testimony of the Rosenberg case I find that I cannot put to rest my doubts about the verdict and wish to cite the following points:

(1) Max Elitcher's testimony is of doubtful value. He says that he and Julius talked about espionage but never transferred any information for some five years. This doesn't seem probable to me.

(2) No certain conspiracy between Sobell and Rosenberg is established.

(3) The connections to others than Ruth and David Greenglass are not established. Miss Bentley was unable to identify the telephone voice that said, "This is Julius" with the voice of Julius Rosenberg. If "Julius" did not refer to him in this case, it probably did not when Harry Gold said, "I came from Julius" when he met Greenglass in New Mexico. From Gold's testimony it seems that he knew nothing of Rosenberg at all. It seems unbelievable to me that the name of an arch conspirator would be used in such identification phrases.

(4) No contact between the Rosenbergs and Anatoli A. Yakovlev is established.

(5) The Government's case rests on the testimony of Ruth and David Greenglass. He had pleaded guilty, but had not been sentenced and hoped for clemency. She has never been charged and tried, obviously it seems as a reward for her testimony. A family feud between the Greenglasses and Rosenbergs existed because of a business altercation. The Rosenbergs' testimony flatly contradicted that of the Greenglasses.

Testimony of Rosenbergs

I found the Rosenbergs' testimony more believable than that of the Greenglasses, although I realize that I have not had the jurors' advantage of hearing and seeing the witnesses. Is it customary for spies to be paid in wrist watches and console tables? Greenglass and Fuchs were paid in cash. The Rosenbergs appear to have been as poor as churchmice and the statement that Julius was spending $50 or $75 a night in night clubs seems to me to be a very doubtful one. Had he done this, he would have been obviously and unaccountably rich to all his associates.

However, even if the verdict is correct, I am amazed at the unequal punishment for the same crime. For the very same conspiracy Ruth Greenglass was never brought to trial, though she admitted her guilt on the witness stand; David Greenglass got fifteen years; Morton Sobell and Harry Gold got thirty years, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg got death. Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained their innocence. If capital punishment is to be given in the future for espionage I should like to have it introduced in a case for which the evidence rests on the testimony of witnesses who did not stand to profit from their testimony. I do not regard self-confessed criminals as reliable witnesses.

We are engaged in a cold war with the tyrannical Government of the U. S. S. R. We wish to win the approval and loyalty of the good people of the world. Would it not be embarrassing if, after the execution of the Rosenbergs, it could be shown that the United States had executed two innocent people and let a guilty one go completely free? And, remember, somewhere there is a representative of the U. S. S. R. who knows what the facts are.

I strongly urge a careful reconsideration of this sentence.

HAROLD C. UREY.

Chicago, Jan. 5, 1953.

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

100-104111-1B102

THE ELECTRIC CHAIR CAN'T KILL THE DOUBTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

Pres. Eisenhower Can & Must RECONSIDER His Decision to Let the Rosenbergs Die!

THERE IS DOUBT in the case: The U.S. Court of Appeals called the prosecutor's conduct "reprehensible."

THERE IS DOUBT in the case: The FBI admitted on Dec. 1 that it helped an important witness lie under oath!

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We appeal to your conscience—

THEY MUST NOT DIE WHILE DOUBT REMAINS

Write-Wire President Eisenhower to Reconsider! Commute the Death Sentence!

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THE SUPPRESSED FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

Single copy 5c; 25 copies 75c; 100 copies $2.00
(Includes Postage)

Copies of either or both pamphlets will be mailed to names furnished by the reader. The blank below is for your convenience:

Enclosed please find $_____ for _____ copies of the following:

_____ FREEDOM'S ELECTROCUTION.

_____ THE SUPPRESSED FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE.

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY, 1953

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS OR ORDERS TO:

Irwin Edelman

P. O. BOX 2505 LOS ANGELES 53, CALIFORNIA

The

SUPPRESSED FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

PRICE 5 CENTS

BY

Irwin Edelman

Believe It or Not

It doesn't sound believable but it's true. With all the thousands upon thousands of reams of paper and gallons of ink consumed on the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, a case which has attracted international attention, the entire press has somehow failed to report extremely important facts which the most casual reader of the trial proceedings would find hard to overlook.

The facts are dynamite. Their publication at the end of the trial might have blown the case wide open. Their publication today could go far to promote the clemency campaign and at the same time reduce dangerous anti-Semitic confusion. What many will find particularly startling about these facts is that the friends of the Rosenbergs have a large share of responsibility for their concealment.

The never-reported facts deal with extremely serious errors made by Emmanuel H. and Alexander Bloch, the lawyers for the defense in the Rosenberg trial. Judge Kaufman who publicized his synagogue attendance during the trial, and prosecutor Irving H. Saypol who was rebuked by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for his practice of anti-Semitism, both of these gentlemen took murderous advantage of the defense errors for the purpose of influencing the jury and justifying before the public the death sentence handed down.

A "Secret" is Sealed

The Rosenbergs were charged — in 1951 — with having obtained from David Greenglass and given to the Russians the atom bomb secret—in 1945. That charge they have consistently denied, but if it indeed was true, then there existed no reason for keeping from Americans that which was no longer a secret to the Russians. When, therefore, the prosecutor introduced a diagram of what was alleged to be a cross section of the atom bomb—drawn from memory by Greenglass after he had been arrested—the Rosenberg attorneys should have turned a bright light upon that diagram. Since Greenglass was but a high school graduate with mediocre technical knowledge, scientists should have been called in to examine the value of the sketch and, if it did have value, to determine by questioning Greenglass, whether he possessed the mental equipment to construct, without F.B.I. or other coaching, a useful representation of something as complex as an atomic bomb.

Such investigation was particularly in order since top atomic scientists have been repeatedly stating that we had no secret, that the principles involved were known to the scientists of most countries, and

the construction details a matter of engineering which could be approached in various ways.

What did the defense do in this situation? The most preposterous thing imaginable. To the voiced surprise of the prosecutor, Emmanuel H. Bloch requested the Court "to impound this exhibit so that it remains secret to the Court, the jury and counsel." At defense request, Judge Kaufman performed the fraudulent ceremony of solemnly sealing a non-existent or given-away "secret," composed by a self-confessed spy who had the strongest incentive for lying, since he was unsentenced at the time he testified. That highly questionable diagram—the foundation for the death sentence—is to this very day sealed, legally unavailable to scientists who might expose it as a fraud.

By this move, the defense conceded what the prosecution had reason to think would be vigorously challenged—the existence of an atom bomb secret. As a result, the prosecution radically changed its plans. Where it had listed 118 witnesses, it closed its case with 20. Among those listed but not called, were Dr. Oppenheimer and Dr. Urey, top atomic scientists involved in the making of the bomb. The weight of the defense blunder can be guaged from the following two items:

1. In a letter addressed to the President, urging clemency, the above-mentioned Dr. Urey, the uncalled prosecution witness, expressed himself as "outraged by the verdict" and stated that he had "found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses."

2. The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, noting that in the case of a jury trial the law did not permit that Court to go into the question of credibility of witnesses, stated that "Doubtless, if that [Greenglass] testimony were disregarded, the conviction could not stand."

From these two authoritative statements it is clear that the case against the Rosenbergs was built of the flimsiest texture, that its strongest support came from the unexpected defense build-up of the Greenglass diagram as something which might shatter worlds if displayed. The record shows that the Atomic Energy Commission had declassified this "secret" before it was produced in court, and that the prosecutor and judge had both taken for granted that it would be exposed to public view. The monumental quality of this defense blunder emerges from the fact that what Greenglass orally testified to about the sealed diagram was treated with ridicule in LIFE, TIME, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and other periodicals.

The Danger of Concealment

There were other serious defense errors and they stand out conspicuously in the official transcript of the trial proceedings. Had they been publicized as soon as discovered, the Rosenbergs could have had different lawyers handling their appeal. New lawyers, with no stake in concealment, could have displayed the errors before the courts while the Rosenberg defense committee displayed them before the public. Less stress would have been laid on legalisms and more on making clear that, if the government had a decent case against the Rosenbergs, there would have been no need for the judge and prosecutor to employ the indecent methods they did.

Why were the errors covered up by the Rosenberg defense committee and the publicity channels working with the Committee? The intentions, for the most part, may have been good—the road to hell is paved with good intentions. It may have been the desire to spare the feelings or careers of well-meaning lawyers, coupled with the hope that eventually a new trial would be granted, or the fear that bad publicity for the lawyers might hurt the defendants. Any or all of these reasons may have prompted William A. Reuben to write his series of articles on the Rosenberg case for the NATIONAL GUARDIAN in the summer of 1951, without giving the slightest intimation of defense error.

The initial covering up may be classed as a forgivable mistake. Only, what starts out as an error will sometimes wind up as a crime. There is a serious possibility that continued concealment is ripening poisonous fruit. Professional anti-Semites, and sinister elements prepared to use Hitlerian methods in their drive for conformity and thought control, are capitalizing on judge Kaufman's statement that the Rosenbergs are responsible for the casualties in the Korean war and the wars to come. The fraudulence of that statement will stand out most clearly in the light of the defense errors upon which it rests. The reluctance to display the errors creates the danger that the fostered anti-Semitic confusion may erupt into large-scale hoodlum violence, irrespective of whether clemency is granted or denied. In this sinister context, every moment of continued concealment is fraught with peril and loaded with crime.

But, it may be protested, the Rosenberg defense committee and the associated publicity channels, all of them put together amount to a tiny feather-

weight in the scale of the forces shaping public opinion. Is it fair to load them with responsibility for crimes which may occur as a result of suppression of the facts in the case?

The answer to this question has indirectly been given by Carey McWilliams, who is the editorial director of the NATION magazine, the author of an excellent book on anti-Semitism, and an attorney. In response to my plea that the NATION open its columns to a discussion of the suppressed facts, Mr. McWilliams replied that "There are possible libelous implications in discussing the way an attorney conducted a trial."

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, having no reason to fear "libelous implications," is in a strategic position to introduce a discussion which may clear millions of minds from vicious confusion. The Committee is small in mass and weight, but it has a great opportunity and heavy responsibility. If it fails to respond, it will be not because of the excuse currently given, "the need to concentrate on clemency," but because the people in leadership lack the vision to perceive that continued concealment is an invitation to disaster. The facts in the section which follows, seem to indicate that they are wedded to concealment "until death do us part."

The Fearful of the Light

In mid-November 1952, my pamphlet on the Rosenberg case was published, FREEDOM'S ELECTROCUTION, containing, among other things, a description of outstanding defense errors. Two nationally prominent newspapermen privately told me that the pamphlet contained startling facts about which the public should be immediately informed, but that their editors would not touch it. The Anglo-Jewish and Jewish press ignored it. The reputedly liberal NEW REPUBLIC refused to accept an ad. The liberal NATION not only accepted the ad but also published, in its issue of December 27, a letter of mine, discussing the defense errors and their concealment. The SEARCHLIGHT, published in San Francisco, and THE LAST CALL, published in Houston, Texas, gave the pamphlet honorable mention.

Before publishing, I conferred with the leadership of the Los Angeles chapter of the Rosenberg committee, of which I was a member. The reasons they gave for keeping silent on the errors, failed to impress me. With the result that a few days before FREEDOM'S ELECTROCUTION came off the press, I was mailed a notice of my expulsion.

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THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN, a weekly publication which pioneered in the publicizing of the injustice against the Rosenbergs but failed to note the defense errors, refused to accept an ad for the pamphlet on the pretext that "to pick flaws in the conduct of the defense is now an academic matter." The "academic" quality of the "flaw-picking" is by now surely obvious to the reader. The size of the "flaws" was indicated by the GUARDIAN editor himself, in a letter to a subscriber who protested against the refusal to advertise. "I would not argue," wrote Cedric Belfrage, "with Edelman's point that lawyer Bloch made serious mistakes in the Rosenberg trial. Bloch does not deny it himself."

The size of the "flaws" was more emphatically indicated by John M. Coe, an attorney and the state chairman of the Progressive Party of Florida. "You have undoubtedly exposed a fearful error on the part of the defense in the Rosenberg case," wrote Mr. Coe in a letter of comment on the pamphlet, "and I think the reasons which you give for its occurrence are correct." Further on he says that "the error is a subtle one, and could be appreciated only by persons of considerably more than average intelligence," and he concludes that "if the evil is beyond

recall, and exposure can only sow distrust and bitterness against basically sincere and right-minded men, it is justifiable to keep silent."

Mr. Coe's comment merits special attention because, in his concern about the prestige of "basically sincere and right-minded" blunderers and in his lack of confidence in "average intelligence," he not only reflects the thinking of most of the advocates of silence on the defense blunders, but also points to an ailment responsible for the shrunken size and weight of a number of left of center groups in the United States. The prominent symptoms of that ailment are—leadership contempt for "average intelligence" and the evil habit of covering up blunders, instead of frankly and boldly revealing, discussing and correcting them.

A Lawyer Throws a Sidelight

Excerpts from two letters by Fyke Farmer (Nashville, Tennessee), attorney in the Stanley Dale Sydow case, will round out the picture by throwing a useful sidelight.

Under date of December 7, 1952, Mr. Farmer wrote me from New York about his keen interest in what he characterized as "indeed a case for America's conscience." At the time, he was "studying the legal aspects of the case." Ten days later he had the following to say:

". . . A funny thing about all these people that have been connected with the case is that they seem not to want any outside comment or help. I went to the office of the Rosenberg committee when I first came here. Mrs. Sobell met me—gave me literature and loaned me a copy of the record. But when I began to make suggestions in the form of questions, I sensed that she was not much interested.

"Bloch received me when he was busy preparing for the hearing on his motion for habeas corpus. But, I was under the impression that he felt that he knew all about the case and that nobody else could possibly know anything.

"I am convinced that a terrible injustice has been done the Rosenbergs . . . I am still thinking about what can be done. If anything is possible, it will have to be done outside of and independent of the Rosenberg committee, Bloch and the NATIONAL GUARDIAN."

Social Significance of Rosenberg Case

In attempting to electrocute the Rosenbergs—who possess the twin characteristics of being Jewish and socially conscious—the engineers of the case have three main objectives:

1. To frighten into silence Jewish progressives who, along with other Americans, might wish to speak out and organize against inflation, racial discrimination, the slaughter in Korea, and other evils which are profitable to Big Business but costly to the people.

2. By placing the Jewish socially-minded under a cloud of suspicion, the door is opened to the discrediting of all who strive for social change by charging them with being Jewish or "Jewish-inspired." That was Hitler's method.

3. By means of the confusion stemming from the Rosenberg case, they hope to use the American Jews in the manner Hitler used the German Jews—as scapegoat, if the need arises.

What Is to Be Done?

The Rosenberg case is an American version of the French Dreyfus Case. Revision of the sentence and a new trial for Dreyfus came when the French people were aroused to the injustice and social significance of the case.

The American people can and must be aroused so that not one million but tens of millions demand commutation of the sentence. For achieving this, they must be given the suppressed facts.

What must be done?

1. Write to the President, informing him that you would consider it not justice but murder to electrocute the Rosenbergs because their lawyers had bungled their case.

2. Give the suppressed facts in the Rosenberg case to trade union leaders, clergymen, editors, lawyers, etc. and the people at large. The intelligence of the people is more than sufficient for perceiving the errors, and their sense of justice is sufficiently keen to react.

3. Write to the Blochs, urging them to enter a motion for a new trial, giving their own errors as ground, and showing, of course, the scandalous manner in which the judge took advantage of their errors. They owe this as a minimum to their hard-pressed clients. Such a move, apart from its legal value, would dramatically open this "closed case" in the court of public opinion. The press would find it hard to ignore.

4. Write to the Rosenberg defense committee and publications friendly to the Rosenbergs, urging them to take the initiative in lifting the curtain of silence on the suppressed facts. This will enable periodicals like the NATION and lawyers throughout the country to discuss them freely, without fear of "libelous implications."

Read and spread the suppressed facts in

Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

Office of
WM. C. HUESTON
1915 14th Street, N. W.
Phone DEcatur 2900
Washington, D. C.

January 23, 1953.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am not going into the guilt or innocence of Ethel and Julius Rosenburg but I am joining in with the petition to commute this sentence to life in prison or a lesser term.

It seems to me that the United States of America could lessen the harshness of their sentence in keeping with the punishment dealt out by other countries for similar crimes.

Very respectfully yours,
W. C. Hueston
W. C. Hueston
Grand Secretary
I. B. P. O. E. of W.

WCH:hh

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,
The White House, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I understand that the case involving Ethel and Julius Rosenberg will soon come to your desk. I am not equipped to decide on the guilt or innocence of these people who were convicted of conspiring to commit espionage, but I have been deeply moved by these words from their clemency appeal:

> *"We are innocent, as we have proclaimed and maintained from the time of our arrest. This is the whole truth. To forsake this truth is to pay too high a price even for the priceless gift of life, for life thus purchased we could not live out in dignity and self-respect."*

I find it a matter of some concern, too, when a scientist of Dr. Harold C. Urey's great repute says:

> *I am amazed and completely outraged by the unequal punishment which has been given."*

And, of course, the statement of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt must be considered:

> *"Never before have we executed anyone for treason in this country in time of peace. We might say we would like to substitute the life sentence on humanitarian grounds. I think there is a great deal of hope this will be done."*

I've also read that Dr. Albert Einstein, Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, Reverend John Paul Jones, Father Frank North, Max Lerner, Dorothy Thompson and many, many more eminent people here and the world over have spoken out against the death sentence for the Rosenbergs.

Then, considering the lighter sentences given to such traitors as Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, to the beastly Ilse Koch, I am moved to believe that the death sentence for the Rosenbergs is excessive, unprecedented, uncalled for.

Respectfully, I urge that you begin your administration with an act of justice and humanity that can make our country proud before the family of nations. I urge you to grant executive clemency to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

With every good wish for an administration of peace and prosperity,

Respectfully,

Won't you sign your name and address and mail this letter to President Eisenhower?

Issued by: NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N. Y.: BRyant 9-9694

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

I believe that the death sentence was unusually severe. The reputation of the United States throughout the world for democracy and humanity will be best served by clemency, particularly in view of the unprecedented character of this sentence.

I hope that you grant the Rosenbergs Executive Clemency.

Sincerely,

b7D

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b7D

100-107111-1B128

PLACE
2 CENT
STAMP
HERE

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
The White House
Washington, D. C.

PLACE
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PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
The White House
Washington, D. C.

100-10711-16128

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1953.

EINSTEIN SUPPORTS ROSENBERG APPEAL

Prof. Albert Einstein, the venerable mathematician who lives in Princeton, N. J., announced that he had written the President Monday asking for mercy. His note said:

"Dear Mr. President:

"My conscience compels me to urge you to consider the fate in clemency of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

"This appears to you to be prompted by the same reasons which were set forth so convincingly by my distinguished colleague, Harold C. Urey, in his letter of Jan. 5, 1953, to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"Respectfully yours,

"ALBERT EINSTEIN."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

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I strongly urge a careful reconsideration of this sentence.

HAROLD C. UREY.

Chicago, Jan. 5, 1953.

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1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

100-107111-1B129

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100-107111-16129

HIS HOLINESS, THE POPE SAYS 'SPARE THE ROSENBERGS'

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 13—Pope Pius XII has asked the President of the United States to commute the death sentences of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

President Eisenhower CAN and MUST Reconsider His Decision to Execute the Rosenbergs

Write - Wire President Eisenhower to Reconsider! Commute the Death Sentence!

Issued by: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
1050 6th Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. BRyant 9-9694

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100-107111-1329

EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEM GUILTY PROTEST THE UNEQUAL, UNJUST SENTENCE AND ARE ASKING THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUTATION

DOROTHY THOMPSON, The Washington Star, April 12, 1951: "The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . in 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

MAX LERNER, New York Post, June 19, 1952: "I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

THE VERY REV. C. W. CHANDLER, Dean of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, October 27, 1952: "Assuming that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are guilty, it must be borne in mind that it was during World War II, when Russia was an ally, that these persons committed their offense. As heinous as the offense may be, it does not merit a death sentence, and I cannot believe that in this instance the president of your republic will allow this sentence to stand."

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD, article by editor Hillel Rogoff, October 16, 1952: "When Judge Irving Kaufman passed the death sentence on the Rosenbergs, the Jewish Daily Forward wrote that the sentence was too horrible. We have not changed our minds. . . . We express our hope that the president will save the Rosenbergs from the electric chair."

THE NATION, article by Arthur Garfield Hays, November 8, 1952: ". . . We may try, but we cannot forget the two young Rosenberg children. . . . It is the damnable death penalty that causes the uneasiness."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, column by Jacob Glatstein, October 29, 1952: "One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

JEWISH DAY, editorial, October 16, 1952: ". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence. . . ."

N UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS:

FRITCHMAN, Los Angeles; YURI SUHL, author; NELSON ALGREN, author; a Group of Catholic Laymen associated with the CATHOLIC WORKER (Michael Harrington, Robert Ludlow, Martin Corbin, Isidore Fazio, Charles McCormack, Roger O'Neil); PROF. ROLAND H. BAINTON, Yale Divinity School; DR. PAUL L. WHITELY, Franklin and Marshall College; RABBI ABRAHAM HORVITZ; REV. H. H. LESTER; RABBI L. A. GREENBERG; REV. THOMAS McCANDLESS, New York; REV. CHARLES WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Albany, N. Y., and thousands of others. (Names of organizations and institutions are given solely for purposes of identification.)

★

1B129

We Americans Ask for Clemency and Equal Justice for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and their children, aged nine and five

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

In the New York Herald Tribune of October 19, 1952, it was noted that the government declared that the Rosenbergs "were part of the spy ring in which Dr. Klaus Fuchs, the British atomic scientist, was the key man."

Mr. President, if Dr. Fuchs, "THE KEY MAN," is sentenced to 14 years, why are the Rosenbergs sentenced to DEATH?

Our Constitution gives you, Mr. President, the constitutional right, and lays upon you the constitutional duty, to render EQUAL justice by commuting the death sentences.

You exercised this right on July 25, 1952, when you commuted the death sentence of Oscar Collazo, who had been sentenced to death for an alleged attempt to assassinate you.

You can and should exercise this right again to save the lives of the Rosenbergs.

What Can You, American Men and Women, Do?

1. Send a letter, telegram, or postal card to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C., respectfully urging him to commute the death sentence for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.
2. Send a similar letter, telegram, or postal card to your own Congressman and to your two U.S. Senators, respectfully urging them to speak up for a commutation of sentence for the Rosenbergs.
3. Ask your organization—church, union, synagogue, veterans' group, women's auxiliary, social club, bridge club—to send similar letters to the President and other officials.
4. Write to your local newspaper, and visit the editors with a delegation, asking them editorially to speak up for equal American justice for the Rosenbergs.
5. Send a contribution—whatever you can afford—to the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case to help us carry on this work. Checks may be made out to Joseph Brainin, Chairman, 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. Tell us what else you think should be done.

1B/29

SHOULD THE ROSENBERGS BE EXECUTED WHEN WAR-TIME TRAITORS ARE GIVEN LIGHT PRISON TERMS?

DURING THE WAR, "Axis Sally" (Rita Louise Zucca), deserted to the Nazis, broadcast daily to our soldiers in Italy, to demoralize them, to cause them to desert to the Nazis. At the end of the war, tried for TREASON IN TIME OF WAR, she was convicted, sentenced Sept. 28, 1945 to 4 years, 5 months in prison.

"Tokyo Rose" (I. T. D'Aquino), deserted to the Japanese, broadcast to our soldiers in Japan, to cause them to desert to the Japanese. She was tried for TREASON IN TIME OF WAR, convicted, sentenced Oct. 6, 1949 to 10 years in prison.

SHOULD THE ROSENBERGS DIE WHEN THOSE CONFESSING TO THE SAME CHARGES GET LIGHT SENTENCES?

Dr. Allan Nunn May, high ranking nuclear physicist, was in 1946 charged with atomic espionage for Russia. HE CONFESSED to a British court, was sentenced on May 1, 1946 to 10 years in prison. NOTE: The New York Times, September 10, 1952, reports: "Dr. Allan Nunn May . . . will be released about the end of this year, having served his MINIMUM TERM OF NEARLY SEVEN YEARS."

Dr. Klaus Emil Fuchs, a highly placed British scientist, charged with atomic espionage for Russia, CONFESSED to a British court, was sentenced on March 1, 1950 to 14 years in prison.

FOR THE FIRST TIME AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH ON SUCH A CHARGE!

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were indicted in 1950, charged with giving atomic information to Russia in 1944, when she was our wartime ally. With their co-defendant, Morton Sobell, they protest their innocence to this day. They were convicted. On April 5, 1951 Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair.

WHY? *Why the excessive and brutal sentences?*

HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS ARE APPEALING FOR CLEMENCY.

THE CHURCHMAN (Protestant Episcopalian), in an editorial on November 1, 1952: "The Churchman feels that the death sentence, in the light of the far milder treatment of more serious offenders than the Rosenbergs, is both excessive and cruel. We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the name of the United States. . . ."

1B129

. . . in "Hostile Atmosphere"

The New York Herald Tribune on October 11, 1952, had this headline:

COURT SETS ASIDE CONVICTION OF EX-TAX OFFICIAL.

Rules Delaney Was Tried in 'Hostile Atmosphere' Engendered by Publicity.

The story reported that the U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston reversed the conviction of Denis W. Delaney, an ousted Internal Revenue Collector. The Court held that Delaney was forced to stand trial in "the hostile atmosphere engendered by all the pre-trial publicity."

This is our American concept of a fair trial.

Does not that concept hold for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and Morton Sobell?

Were they not tried in a headline atmosphere a thousand times more hostile than that faced by Delaney? Was not all the "pre-trial publicity" about the Rosenbergs a thousand times more hostile and prejudicial?

"We are innocent,"

say Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell.

The National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs believes there is definitely grave and reasonable doubt about their conviction.

But NOW, with the United States Supreme Court having turned down their request for a review of their conviction, the immediate issue is not their guilt or innocence, or the vindication that time may bring.

THE ISSUE NOW is to SAVE THE ROSENBERGS from the unjust, un-American, unequal sentence of DEATH.

WHY 4 years and 5 months, 10 years, 14 years for Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose, Dr. May and Dr. Fuchs and DEATH for the ROSENBERGS?

Is not the unprecedented death sentence a product of "the hostile atmosphere"?

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKE

UNITED STATES BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY CLAY NEWCOMER (RET.); REV. CLARENCE D. HERRIOTT; HONORABLE SIDNEY SILVERMAN, Member of Parliament, Great Britain; WALDO FRANK, author; REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn; RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH; DOROTHY DAY, editor of the CATHOLIC WORKER; RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF; DR. GEORGE SARTON, Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University and President of the International Union of the History of Science; RABBI FRANKLIN COHN; HONORABLE ROBERT KENNY, Los Angeles; DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS, author; REV. AMOS MURPHY, Boston; REV. STEPHEN

1B129

The People Speak Out—

On the Rosenberg Case

Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School, Connecticut

"I was shocked when I read that the death sentence had been imposed upon Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and I am glad to have the opportunity of saying a word which might have some influence in altering the sentence. . . . I feel that the sentence is too severe because it is not commensurate with that meted out to others guilty of the same offense. . . . We should by no means allow ourselves to determine life and death in terms of emotions engendered by a succession of disillusionments."

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"The value of the information transmitted to the Rosenbergs by the second-rate electrician David Greenglass, is arguable at best. The Journal of the American Association of Atomic Scientists as well as The Scientific American stated that these 'secrets' were not particularly important.

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"It would seem from the above that the punishment of the Rosenbergs is unduly harsh."

1B129

THE PEOPLE

From an editorial in *THE AFRO-AMERICAN*, January 31, 1953, entitled "Four Good Reasons"

"Justice will be served if the death sentences given Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted of atomic espionage, are commuted to life sentences.

"There may be others, but we think these four reasons are sufficient to justify the President in commuting the death sentences to life imprisonment."

A letter by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

"My dear Mr. Bloch:*

"Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 17. I have accepted the verdict of the courts in their conviction of the Rosenbergs for violating the espionage laws of our country. The crime of which they have been found guilty is a heinous one and I found no sympathy in my heart for men and women who betray their country. I was especially resentful of the effort that was made to drag in the issue of anti-semitism in this most unfortunate affair.

"However, I believe that the death sentence which has been imposed is unprecedented in the legal annals of our country as a punishment for espionage in peacetime. I believe that our country is strong and great-hearted enough to be merciful. Should, therefore, an appeal be made to the court or to the President of the United States for clemency and for commutation of the death sentence, I am prepared to add my name to such a plea.

"I do not wish any publicity to be given by you to this letter of mine or to my position in this matter. I wish it to be held confidential except for court or presidential use."**

* Emanuel Bloch, defense counsel for the Rosenbergs.

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Dorothy Thompson, *THE WASHINGTON STAR*, April 12, 1951

"The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . in 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

The Rev. John Paul Jones, *N. Y. TIMES*, November 28

"To the Editor of The New York Times:

"The imposing of the death sentence on the two Rosenbergs is, to say the least, a troublesome matter for the conscience of thoughtful people.

"In the first place, even when conceding that the Rosenbergs have been guilty of transmitting information to the Soviet Union, the trial evidence and conduct do not remove all doubts about either the wisdom or justice of inflicting the death penalty. Great stress has been laid that this alleged crime was begun in wartime but equal stress has not been laid upon the fact that it was not connivance with a wartime enemy but with an ally. . . .

"While a layman is hardly qualified to comment upon matters of due process it is important to remember that at least some quite capable and disinterested lawyers assert that there were violations. It is hard to dispel the feeling that the mood and temper of the present time have created an atmosphere in which a fair trial has been extremely difficult, if not impossible. . . .

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From editorial in *THE JEWISH DAY*, October 16, 1952

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

16129

ON THE ROSE

Max Lerner, *NEW YORK POST*, June 19, 1952

"I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

From editorial in the *JEWISH CHRONICLE*, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 5, 1952

"We believe that President Truman ought to commute the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. . . . Justice in the United States must not be more vindictive than in other civilized countries."

Father Frank North, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, in a letter to the President

"Dear Mr. President: As a priest I am as much opposed to Communism as anyone. But surely the sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing on atomic information to Russia while she was our ally is way out of line. In the interests of justice and decency can't you do something about their death penalties? Surely this would also be of value from the standpoint of propaganda."

Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff, Brooklyn, N. Y.

". . . As a devout Jew, I revere our country's laws, which carry out the humane principles enunciated in the Torah, and I am reminded that the Declaration of Independence is of one piece with our leader Moses' exhortation: 'Proclaim freedom throughout the land.' Therefore, it is inconceivable to me that in our country a death sentence should be so lightly given, as was the case in the Rosenberg Trial.

From *THE COMMONWEAL*, widely-circulated Catholic weekly, January 9, 1953

"The Rosenbergs were lawfully tried and, at least as far as the letter of the law goes, lawfully sentenced to pay the supreme penalty. Whether they would have received as drastic a sentence had they been tried, say, in 1946 rather than during the cold war, is doubtful.

"Whenever the state takes a life, so final is the step, there must be a certain hesitation in putting the stamp of approval upon the decision. In the case of a political crime, our tradition of political liberty makes one doubly hesitant. It is foreign to our temper as a people and to the spirit of our history to stand in the street calling for blood. . . .

"Alive, the Rosenbergs represent a constant threat to the Communist conspiracy. From hour to hour who can be sure when one or the other of them will not break down and talk? Dead, their secrets die with them. . . ."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, column by Jacob Glatstein, October 29, 1952

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

1B129

ENBERG CASE

Dr. Rudolf Carnap, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

"Thank you for sending me the affidavit by Professor Bernal in connection with the Rosenberg Case. I have read it with great interest. It confirmed my earlier belief that the Court has greatly overstated the importance of the scientific information contained in the sketches of implosion lenses by David Greenglass, or by any accompanying details which a man with his very limited theoretical background was able to furnish. For this reason I feel that the severity of the sentence is out of proportion to the actual damage which could possibly have been done."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. However, accepting the verdict as correct, I am amazed and completely outraged by the unequal punishment which has been given.

"Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained they are innocent and they were convicted on testimony which I do not believe is conclusive beyond a reasonable doubt. If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of *THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE*, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio

"It is argued that, through the betrayal of atomic secrets by the Rosenbergs, Russia gained a military advantage. That the act alleged of the Rosenbergs imparted to Russia any military advantage has, by no means, been proved. But granted that such advantage for Russia might have ensued, others convicted of the identical crime—Fuchs, Greenglass, Gold, Sobell, Slack, Simons, May, Brothman—have not been sentenced to die: they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. If the death penalty was, in those other cases, not requisite for our national defense, why should it be so regarded in the case of the Rosenbergs?"

1B129

From the *JEWISH WESTERN BULLETIN*, official organ of the Jewish Council of Vancouver

"The Bulletin does not question the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. We do feel, however, that the request for clemency directed to President Truman that he should commute the death sentence imposed on these people, is fully justified. . . .

"Finally, it should be noted that this statement represents the unanimous opinion of the Editorial Committee of this publication."

From lead editorial in the *TORONTO HEBREW DAILY JOURNAL*, November 24, 1952

"It is also important to know that appealing to their president is not only the task of citizens of the United States. It is the duty of all right-minded liberal people in the entire world to let their voices be heard, and to appeal to the president.

"The example of the 22 Rabbis of Israel, who appealed directly to President Truman on behalf of the Rosenbergs, must serve as an example.

"We are of the opinion, that all liberal and progressive people in Canada must join in this appeal and ask President Truman to spare the lives of the Rosenbergs, because where the law is too harsh there is room for compassion. It is human to commit a crime, it is also human to forgive.

"In the case of the Rosenbergs, it is no excessive request that the death sentence not be carried out. Precedents for this are numberless."

D. N. Pritt, London, Queen's Counsel

"I am forced to the conclusion that, even if the conviction of the Rosenbergs had rested on reliable evidence that they had conspired to obtain some information, any sentence expressed by the judge to be based on such inaccurate and unproved assertions as to the importance of the information would have to be set aside on appeal under any procedure which provided for a free review of the sentence by an Appellate Court.

"Unfortunately, the procedure applicable to this case does not provide for such a review, any more than it provides for a consideration of the credibility of the witnesses or the reliability of the evidence. Were the procedure different, it may well be that the whole matter would have been disposed of already. But there is, in effect, no appeal at all to any court from either of the two main defects of this trial, namely, the unreliability of the evidence and the gravely excessive sentence.

"The duty of securing a review on these points thus rests on public opinion throughout the world. After full study, for the reasons which I have expressed above, I must express the view, from a purely professional standpoint, that it would offend against all Anglo-Saxon standards of justice that the convictions, let alone the sentence, of the Rosenbergs should be allowed to stand."

Write—Wire President Eisenhower, Urging Clemency

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

1B129

January 15, 1953

Dear Neighbor:

We wish to announce the formation of the---

FAR ROCKAWAY CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

As a group of parents in this community it is with horror that we contemplate the electrocution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, making of their two young sons orphans who will have to go through life under the shadow of their parents' fate.

We are not at present concerned with the question of innocence or guilt, but merely in securing commutation of sentence through executive clemency.

Only yesterday, the world-famous and beloved Albert Einstein made his plea to President Truman for executive clemency. In the enclosed folder are the names and statements of prominent people the world over. 1,500 Protestant clergymen today also raised their voices in asking that the lives of the Rosenbergs be spared.

Your letter or telegram to the President may be the turning point in helping to spare these lives.

DON'T DELAY!

WRITE OR WIRE IMMEDIATELY!

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Florence Stadlen,
Secretary

1382 Eggert Pl.

100-107111-
1B 130

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THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

From an editorial in the *BOSTON CHRONICLE*, November 29, 1952, entitled "Clemency for the Rosenbergs"

"Those of us who recall the relatively light sentences meted out to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally for their treasonable activities during World War II cannot help from considering the death sentence of the Rosenbergs as "cruel and unusual punishment." Their trial was conducted in an atmosphere conducive to the severity of their sentence, the supreme penalty, and in making this observation we are cognizant of its weight without regard to the innocence or guilt of the sentenced persons on the basis of flimsy or substantial evidence."

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"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

Dr. Rudolf Carnap, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

"Thank you for sending me the affidavit by Professor Bernal in connection with the Rosenberg Case. I have read it with great interest. It confirmed my earlier belief that the Court has greatly overstated the importance of the scientific information contained in the sketches of implosion lenses by David Greenglass, or by any accompanying details which a man with his very limited theoretical background was able to furnish. For this reason I feel that the severity of the sentence is out of proportion to the actual damage which could possibly have been done."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. However, accepting the verdict as correct, I am amazed and completely outraged by the unequal punishment which has been given.

"Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained they are innocent and they were convicted on testimony which I do not believe is conclusive beyond a reasonable doubt. If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of *THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE*, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio

"It is argued that, through the betrayal of atomic secrets by the Rosenbergs, Russia gained a military advantage. That the act alleged of the Rosenbergs imparted to Russia any military advantage has, by no means, been proved. But granted that such advantage for Russia might have ensued, others convicted of the identical crime—Fuchs, Greenglass, Gold, Sobell, Slack, Simons, May, Brothman—have not been sentenced to die: they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. If the death penalty was, in those other cases, not requisite for our national defense, why should it be so regarded in the case of the Rosenbergs?"

1B130

A Cable from Twenty Israeli Rabbis, November 18, 1952

WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO YOU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

Charles E. Raven, Professor Emeritus, Cambridge University, England; Chaplain to HM, the Queen

"As one who has spent much time during the past twenty-five years in the United States and has a deep concern for Anglo-American friendship I cannot but deplore the death sentence upon the Rosenbergs both in itself and from its inevitable effect upon British and world opinion.

". . . this savage verdict underlines the conviction that America, instead of leading the world to a more righteous and liberal way of life, is becoming so hysterical in its dread of Communism as to betray the very principles upon which its Constitution was founded and which its past history has always respected.

"The sentence of death, whatever the merits of the case, is a tragic event for all lovers of the Republic."

Dudley Collard, attorney, England

"Even if the guilt of . . . Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were satisfactorily established, and I am far from being convinced that this is the case, I should be profoundly shocked at the passing upon them in time of peace a sentence of death, which in my opinion is unworthy of any country with a claim to call itself civilized. My opinion is shared by all my professional colleagues at the Bar of England to whom I have spoken of the matter, irrespective of their political opinions."

The Very Rev. C. W. Chandler, Dean of Waikato, New Zealand

"Assuming that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are guilty, it must be borne in mind that it was during World War II, when Russia was an ally, that these persons committed these offenses. As heinous as the offense may be, it does not merit a death sentence, and I cannot believe that in this instance the President of your Republic will allow this sentence to stand. It would be cruel, inhuman and barbaric in the extreme and would raise a storm of protest throughout the world if one of the chief partners in the world's Democratic States, countenanced the infliction of a death penalty, where even a modicum of doubt existed as to the guilt of the persons concerned."

Duke of Bedford, Woburn, Bucks, England

"Capital punishment for political offenses is unworthy of a truly civilized government and suggests its inability to protect itself adequately from hostile or objectionable political influences, either by sound administration at home, or by a just, imaginative and enlightened policy in its dealings with foreign nations."

Rev. Stanley Evans, England

"The view of this section of British opinion is that so much evidence was allowed as to opinion and so little offered as to the fact of guilt that these two people would never have been convicted by an English Court, still less sentenced to the extreme penalty of death.

"We are watching with the deepest anxiety your efforts to secure remission of this terrible sentence."

Sydney Silverman, Member of Parliament, England

". . . I have no hesitation at all in saying that I contemplate with horror the possibility that the death sentence could be carried out in such a case by any civilized country; least of all the United States upon whom history has placed in our time so heavy a responsibility for the wise leadership of so many nations in the onward march of civilization. . . . To exact the extreme penalty from these two unfortunates in these circumstances is to make the Rosenbergs personally responsible for all the errors of the statesmen of the world which since the end of the war have so tragically lost the peace for which we all hoped. That may, as many think, be the sole responsibility of the U.S.S.R.; it surely is not that of the Rosenbergs."

Lord Chorley of Kendel (formerly Cassel Professor of Law in the University of London)

"I am strongly averse to the death penalty, carrying out of the death sentence in such a case as this. I shall be glad to add my name in an appeal to the President for clemency."

Nicole J. Dreyfus, prominent lawyer, Paris

"It is with the saddest feelings that I learned of the death sentence against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and I raise my voice to demand a revision of the judgment."

Janet Jagan, Member Georgetown Town Council, British Guiana

"I am in full agreement with the opposition against this ruthless measure . . . and join in the world-wide protest against such inhuman treatment."

100-10411-1831

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Rosenburg / Sobell Committee

FILE NO. 100 - 107111

VOLUME NO. Bulky

SERIALS 1B 132

Thru

1B179

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
132	LEAFLET	✓		
133	LEAFLET	✓		
134	LEAFLET	✓		
135	POSTCARD	✓		
136	LEAFLET	✓		
137	DESTROYED			
138	PROGRAM	✓		
139	THROWAWAY	✓		
140	POSTER			TOO LARGE ✓ TO REPRODUCE
141	SIGN	✓		
142	THROWAWAY	✓		
143	LEAFLET	✓		
144	LEAFLET	✓		
145	DESTROYED			
146	LEAFLET	✓		
147	DESTROYED			
148	EXEMPTED MATERIAL		b7d	
149	FACT SHEET	✓		
150	DESTROYED			
151	DESTROYED			
152	LEAFLET			TOO LARGE ✓ TO REPRODUCE
153	DESTROYED			

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
154	DESTROYED			
155	LETTER	✓		
156	LETTER	✓		
157	LEAFLET	✓		
158	LEAFLET	✓		
159	LEAFLET	✓		
160	2 pages of pamphlet	✓		
161	EXEMPT MATERIAL		b7d	
162	LEAFLET	✓		
163	DESTROYED			
164	THROWAWAY	✓		
165	LEAFLET	✓		
166	POSTCARD	✓		
167	LEAFLET	✓		
168	EXEMPT MATERIAL		b7d	
169	BOOKLET	✓		
	LETTER	✓		
170	LEAFLET	✓		
171	PRESS RELEASES	✓		
172	INVITATION	✓		
173	CARD	✓		
174	ENVELOPE	✓		

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
175	LETTER + ENVELOPE	LETTER ✓	ENVELOPE b7d	
176	DESTROYED			
177	DESTROYED			
178	REPRINT	✓		
179	DESTROYED	-		

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NEW YORK Field Division

5-13-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE
ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence and information
Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below

132. Leaflet of Conn. Comm. for Clemency.
133. One copy of an open letter, bearing the letterhead of subject organization.
134. Release of N.H. Civil Liberties Council, Leaflet of Conn. Comm. to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case and "THE ROSENBERG CASE" by Nat'l Comm. to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. Destroyed
135. Post card to President Truman.
136. Leaflet received by inf. at 10/52 P.P. rally at Hartford on Conn. Committee to secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.
137. Pamphlet entitled, "TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE" by William A. Reuben.

NOTE: [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON [redacted]

138. A program entitled Bronx Artists present Spring Music Festival, given on 3/29/53 under the auspices of Bronx Artists for the Rosenbergs. [redacted] Submitted by SA BURLINSON on 5-12-53.
139. A throwaway entitled "THE ELECTRIC CHAIR CAN'T KILL THE DOUBTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE," announcing the World's largest Clemency Rally, held at Randall's Island Stadium, 4/26/53. Sponsored by New York Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs, 1050 6th Avenue, New York 18, NY. [redacted] Submitted by SA BLASSER on 5/12/53.
140. Two posters on which is written "SAVE THE LIVES OF THE ROSENBERGS." [redacted] Submitted by SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.

x Destroyed

b7d

Field File #:

100-107111-1560
SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAY 13 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NEW YORK Field Division

5-13-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Evidence and information
Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below

b7d

141. Sign on which is written, "WRITE, WIRE PRES. TRUMAN-CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS." [redacted] Submitted by SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.
142. Two throwaways, headed "ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG, THEY MUST NOT DIE." This was issued by the Bronx Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. [redacted] Submitted by SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.
143. Leaflet entitled "IF YOU KNEW." Issued by the National Labor Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs. [redacted] Submitted by SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.
144. Leaflet entitled "A STATEMENT ON THE ROSENBERG CASE BY A DISTINGUISHED LEADER OF ORTHODOX JEWRY, Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff." Published by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. [redacted] Submitted by SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.
145. Leaflet entitled "THE FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE," issued by captioned Committee.
146. Leaflet entitled "MERCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS," by Abraham Cronbach, published by captioned Committee.
147. Throwaway entitled "MALICIOUS BRIEF IN THE ROSENBERG CASE."
148. [redacted] Submitted by SA ADAMS on 5-12-53.
NOTE:
149. A Fact Sheet on Anti-Semitism in the case: Newspaper Comment. Issued by captioned Committee.
150. Booklet containing the letters of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.
151. Booklet entitled "TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE," by William A. Reuben.
NOTE: [redacted]
Field File #: Submitted by SA D. P. ADAMS on 5-12-53.

100-107111-1961

X Destroyed

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAY 13 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NEW YORK Field Division

5-13-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE
ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence and information
Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below

152. A four page leaflet entitled "PEOPLE RALLYING TO SAVE ROSENBERGS" issued by Committee to Secure Justice in Rosenberg Case. [redacted] Submitted by SA D. P. ADAMS on 5-12-53. b7d

153. Leaflet entitled "THE FACTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE," issued by the National Committee To Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. [redacted] Submitted by SA J. W. DOOLEY on 5-12-53.

154. Three photostatic copies of an eight page pamphlet entitled "THE ROSENBERG CASE A FACT SHEET, published by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 246 5th Avenue, New York 1, New York. [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53.

155. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a one page letter captioned "WASHINGTON COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, 2901 18th Street, #503, Washington, D.C," and dated 4/21/52.

156. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a one page letter captioned "BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO URGE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS, P.O. BOX 2521, ARLINGTON STA., BALTIMORE, MARYLAND," dated 11/24/52.

157. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a one page leaflet captioned "RABBIS OF JERUSALEM CALL FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS" containing the address ofthe"Baltimore Committee to Urge Clemency for the Rosenbergs, P.O. Box 2521 Arlington Sta., Baltimore 15, Maryland.

NOTE: [redacted]
Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53. b7d

X Destroyed

Field File #:

100-107111-1Bla

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAY 13 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile:

NEW YORK Field Division

5-13-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence and information
Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below

158. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a one page leaflet captioned "A LETTER FROM SIX QUEENS CLERGYMEN" dated 11/20/52 and bearing the return address "Box #5, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing 64, New York.

159. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a two page leaflet captioned " THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE," issued by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 6th Avenue, New York 18, NY.

160. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of pages 1 and 16 of the 16 page pamphlet captioned "THE ROSENBERG CASE, an Analysis by D. N. Pritt, World-Famous Bristish Lawyer" issued by the Nat'l Comm. to Secure Justice in Rosenberg Case, 1050 6th Avenue, NY. 18, NY.

161. [redacted]

162. ~~Three~~ photostatic copies of a leaflet captioned "BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO URGE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS, P.O. Box 2521 Arlington Sta., Baltimore 15, Maryland," dated 12/16/52. This leaflet was signed "PAULINE BOYER, Secretary."

~~163.~~ Three photostatic copies of pages 1,27,28,29 and 32 of a 32 page booklet captioned "TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, BY WILLIAM A. REUBEN."

NOTE: [redacted]

Submitted by SA JOHN HARRINGTON on 5-12-53.

Photostatic copy

100-107111-1B 63

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
MAY 13 1953
FBI - NEW YORK

Field File #:

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NEW YORK Field Division

5-13-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence and information
Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below b7d

164. Throwaway re: Rally to Secure Clemency for Ethel & Julius Rosenberg, sponsored by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, Inc., held on March 29th at Carnegie Hall, NY. [redacted] Submittedby SA DOOLEY on 5-12-53.
165. Leaflet entitled"The Rosenbergs Must Not Die" issued by captioned committee.
166. Post Card to President Harry S. Truman.
167. Leaflet entitled "THE ROSENBERGS MUST LIVE." [redacted]
NOTE: [redacted]
168. [redacted]
169. A printed letter announcing the Far Rockaway Citizens Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs dated 1/15/53, beginning Dear Neighbor and signed Sincerely yours, Mrs. Florence Stadlen, Secretary, Also a booklet, "THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT--ON THE ROSENBERG CASE," was enclosed with the letter. [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53. b7d
170. ~~Three~~ Dup. destroyed photostatic copies of leaflet entitled "NOW IN ITS 168TH HOUR" issued by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. Rec'd [redacted] from SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53. See serial [redacted]
171. Sixteen press releases issued by the captioned committee during the early part of 1953. [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53. b7d

Field File #:

FD-192
(7-17-52)

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NEW YORK Field Division

5-14-53 Date

Title and Character of Case:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE
ROSENBERG CASE
NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-107111

Date Property Acquired: See below

Source From Which Property Acquired: See below

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence and information
Retain permanently

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: See below

172. Invitation to Clemency Dinner to be held at Hotel Capitol, New York City. [redacted]
173. Reservation card for same.
174. Return envelope addressed to Professor Stephen Love, Hotel Capitol, New York 18, NY.
NOTE: [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53.
175. A printed letter headed "NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS," 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, NY, dated January 21, 1953 and signed Sincerely and Fraternally, Abe Weisburd, Secretary.
176. Analysis of the Rosenberg case by D.N. Pritt, World famous British lawyer.
177. Reprints of newspaper articles by Professors ALBERT EINSTEIN & HAROLD C. UREY.
178. Reprint from the Gazette and Daily, York Pennsylvania under date of January 3, 1953. Article entitled "EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT" and also an article headed "1,500 CLERGY BACK ROSENBERGS' PLEA."
179. An article from the Nation magazine of January 10, 1953 entitled "MERCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS" by FREDA KIRCHWEY.
NOTE: [redacted] Submitted by SA HARRINGTON on 5-12-53.

b7d

Field File #:

100-107111-1B65

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAY 14 1953

(TELEGRAM TELEGRAM)

J E R U S A L E M R A B B I S P R A Y E R

FOR C L E M E N C Y FOR THE R O S E N B E R G S

MR. PRESIDENT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE HOLY LAND TAKE THE LIBERTY OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY PLEADING WITH YOU TO EXERT THE POWER OF CLEMENCY GIVEN YOU IN THE TRAGIC CASE OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG STOP WE DARE NOT ENTER INTO THE DETAILS OF THE TRIAL WHICH ENDED IN A JUDGMENT OF GUILT AND DEATH-SENTENCE THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO IMAGINE THAT JEWS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD PARTICULARLY IN A LAND AS RICH IN MERIT AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD ACT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY STOP AT LEAST WE KNOW OF NO SUCH HAPPENING IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE STOP

ALSO WE KNOW OF NO PRECEDENT IN WHICH ANY PERSON WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ON A SIMILAR ACCUSATION IN PEACE-TIME STOP WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO YOU MR. PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP

EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP

LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP

GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

SIGNED

GERSHON LAPIDOTH RUBEN MENGIS ELIJA MORDECAI WALKOVSKY JACOB KLIMAS ISSER ZALMAN MELZER ZALMAN SOROTZKIN YEHIEL YESHIEL SHLAGER EPHRAIM BLUM ISRAEL WALZ SHLOMO ZALMAN ZEVIN DAVID SPARBER JOSEPH ADLER AKIBA SOPFER RABBI WEIDENFELD ABRAHAM KARELITZ JEHOSHUA WEINRECH ISRAEL WELZ HAIM JOEL DUKANI JACOB TAVITZKY MICHAL TIKUTZINSKY

Please Mail this text.

The President,
The White House, Washington, D.C.

I add my name to this message respectfully requesting Executive Clemency for Mr. & Mrs. Julius Rosenberg.

(Signed) _____

_____

_____

Connecticut Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs
23 Temple Street, rm 208, NEW HAVEN SPruce 7-8746

17 December 1952

Dear Friend:

Some of us who are concerned for more support from Connecticut for the Mercy Appeal to the President for Executive Clemency for Mr. and Mrs. Julius Rosenberg, who, as you know, are sentenced to die on 12 January, are meeting together on:

Monday, 22 December, 7:30 pm at
The Trinity Church Parish House,
Ch urch & Wall Streets, New Haven.

The only issue we will discuss and act on is the one of Executive Clemency to stay the execution of the young parents, as the President recently did for his near assassin.

Will you please come and bring a friend to the planning meeting on monday evening.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Vaughn Albertson, Rev. Willard Uphaus,
Mrs. Rose Brunswick, Rev. A.J. Hallington,
Dr. Daniel Howard, Dr. John Marsalka.

PS: Will you please send your own appeal for clemency to the President, or use the enclosed appeal of the Rabbis of Jerusalem.

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8/1/L 10-53

Issued as a Public Service by:
CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
Room 208 23 Temple St. New Haven, Conn.

STATEMENT BY ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG
FROM THE DEATH HOUSE AT SING SING, NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1952

Our pleas to the Supreme Court have been restricted by legal protocol, but, before the bar of public opinion we cannot reassert often or emphatically enough our complete innocence of the charge.

One matter should be made unequivocally clear. No matter what the result, we will continue in our determination to expose [illegible] against us by those who would [illegible] tion to the conspiracy to impose war abroad and a police state at home.

We do not want to die. We are young and yearn for a long life of accomplishment. Yet, if the only alternative to death is the purchase of life at the cost of personal dignity and abandonment of the struggle for democracy and ethical standards, there is no future for us or any legacy we can leave our children or those who survive and follow us.

For what is life without the right to live it? Death holds no horror as great as the horror of a sterile existence devoid of social responsibility and the courage of one's convictions.

We believe that our fellow Americans share these sentiments. We believe that they will save us - and themselves - from this conspiracy to put to death innocent Americans.

Ethel Rosenberg
Julius Rosenberg

DRAFT OF APPEAL TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

President Harry S. Truman:

The capacity of our country for mercy and justice meets a new test today in the death sentence facing Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

A Catholic priest, Father Clarence E. Duffy, has said: "In the Rosenberg - Sobell Case, the USA has a unique chance to give leadership to the world by adopting the Christian way, by commuting and revising the sentences imposed on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell."

An Orthodox Jewish Rabbi, Rabbi Meyer Sharff, writes: "It is inconceivable to me that in our country a death sentence should be so lightly given, as was the case in the Rosenberg trial."

40,000 of our fellow Americans, among them many eminent religious and lay figures, have affixed their names to a petition asking that the conviction and sentences be set aside.

Mr. President, these are the first death sentences ever given to anyone by a U.S. civil court on a charge of "conspiring to commit espionage."

We pray that you exercise your right to Executive Clemency on behalf of the Rosenbergs and Sobell, so that no unalterable miscarriage of justice may deprive them of their lives.

Signed:

100-132 V3 NEW HAVEN CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNCIL 100-12570

Nathan H. Weiss, Secretary
392 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Conn.

(Affiliate of American Civil Liberties Union)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 1952

b7d

Dear Mr. President:

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the New Haven Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, respectfully petition you to commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York of conspiring to violate the Espionage Act by combining to communicate secret information to Russia and who are now awaiting execution at Sing Sing prison. We urge you to grant clemency to these defendants for the following reasons:

1) The death penalty is unprecedented in this type of case. The defendants were found guilty of committing espionage not treason. The bulk of the case against them involved trafficking with Russia while that country was our ally in World War II. The defendants were not prosecuted and convicted for aiding a formal enemy. Even in treason cases the death penalty has been imposed only twice by our civilian courts. It has never been imposed in espionage cases.

2) The Rosenbergs received severer penalties than many of their alleged accomplices whose participation in the crime was at least as extensive. Harry Gold, Morton Sobell, David and Ruth Greenglass, Elizabeth Bentley and Emil Fuchs either received lighter punishment or have not been prosecuted at all.

3) There is at least one reason why the Rosenbergs should not be singled out for the severe death penalty but on the contrary should be treated with special consideration. They will leave behind two innocent minor children who will be deprived of a chance of ever seeing their parents again.

4) The carrying out of so extreme a penalty for espionage in the United States will come as a shock to many Europeans and Asiatics who have come to regard the United States as a leader for principles of humane justice. The much lighter penalties imposed on Emil Fuchs convicted by British courts and on the defendants in the Canadian spy trials are certain to bring out unfavorable criticism of the United States. If the Rosenbergs thus become martyrs in the eyes of many people whose friendship and good will we have been

seeking, the execution will not serve our best interests.

5) During the time of the Rosenberg trial and today there is in this country an atmosphere of fear and hysteria among many people that tends to lead them to judge and punish certain crimes more severely than they would if the times permitted more mature judgment. We cannot help but feel that there is at least a reasonable chance that the unusual death penalty was to some extent the consequences of this atmosphere and to that extent deprived the defendants of the full measure of humane justice to which our inhabitants are normally entitled.

Sincerely yours,

Co-Chairman: Rabbi Robert E. Goldburg, Pastor of Congregation Mishkan Israel;

Co-Chairman: Theodore M. Greene, Professor of Philosophy, Yale University, Master of Silliman College;

Recording Secretary: Margaret Nugent, housewife;

Corresponding Secretary: Nathan H. Weiss, business man;

Treasurer: Mina R. Winnick, housewife

Members of the Executive Board

Thomas I. Emerson, Professor, Yale Law School;

Vern Countryman, Associate Professor, Yale Law School;

David Haber, Associate Professor, Yale Law School;

The Reverend Theodore S. Ledbetter, Pastor of the Dixwell Congregational Church;

Helen Lane, housewife;

Sidney W. Mintz, Department of Anthropology, Yale University;

David Holman, medical student;

Louis Zamol, business man.

Note: The organizations are listed for the purpose of identification only.

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

I believe that the death sentence was unusually severe, particularly in view of the milder 10-year sentences given to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, who were convicted of the more serious crime of treason.

I hope that you grant the Rosenbergs Executive Clemency.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7d

PLACE
2 CENT
STAMP
HERE

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Issued as a Public Service by:
CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
Room 208 23 Temple St. New Haven, Conn.

STATEMENT BY ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG FROM THE DEATH HOUSE AT SING SING, NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1952

Our pleas to the Supreme Court have been restricted by legal protocol, but, before the bar of public opinion we cannot reassert often or emphatically enough our complete innocence of the charge.

One matter should be made unequivocally clear. No matter what the result, we will continue in our determination to expose the political frameup perpetrated against us by those who would silence by death, through spurious espionage accusations, opposition to the conspiracy to impose war abroad and a police state at home.

We do not want to die. We are young and yearn for a long life of accomplishment. Yet, if the only alternative to death is the purchase of life at the cost of personal dignity and abandonment of the struggle for democracy and ethical standards, there is no future for us or any legacy we can leave our children or those who survive and follow us.

For what is life without the right to live it? Death holds no horror as great as the horror of a sterile existence devoid of social responsibility and the courage of one's convictions.

We believe that our fellow Americans share these sentiments. We believe that they will save us - and themselves - from this conspiracy to put to death innocent Americans.

Ethel Rosenberg
Julius Rosenberg

DRAFT OF APPEAL TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

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Mr. President, these are the first death sentences ever given to anyone by a U.S. civil court on a charge of "conspiring to commit espionage."

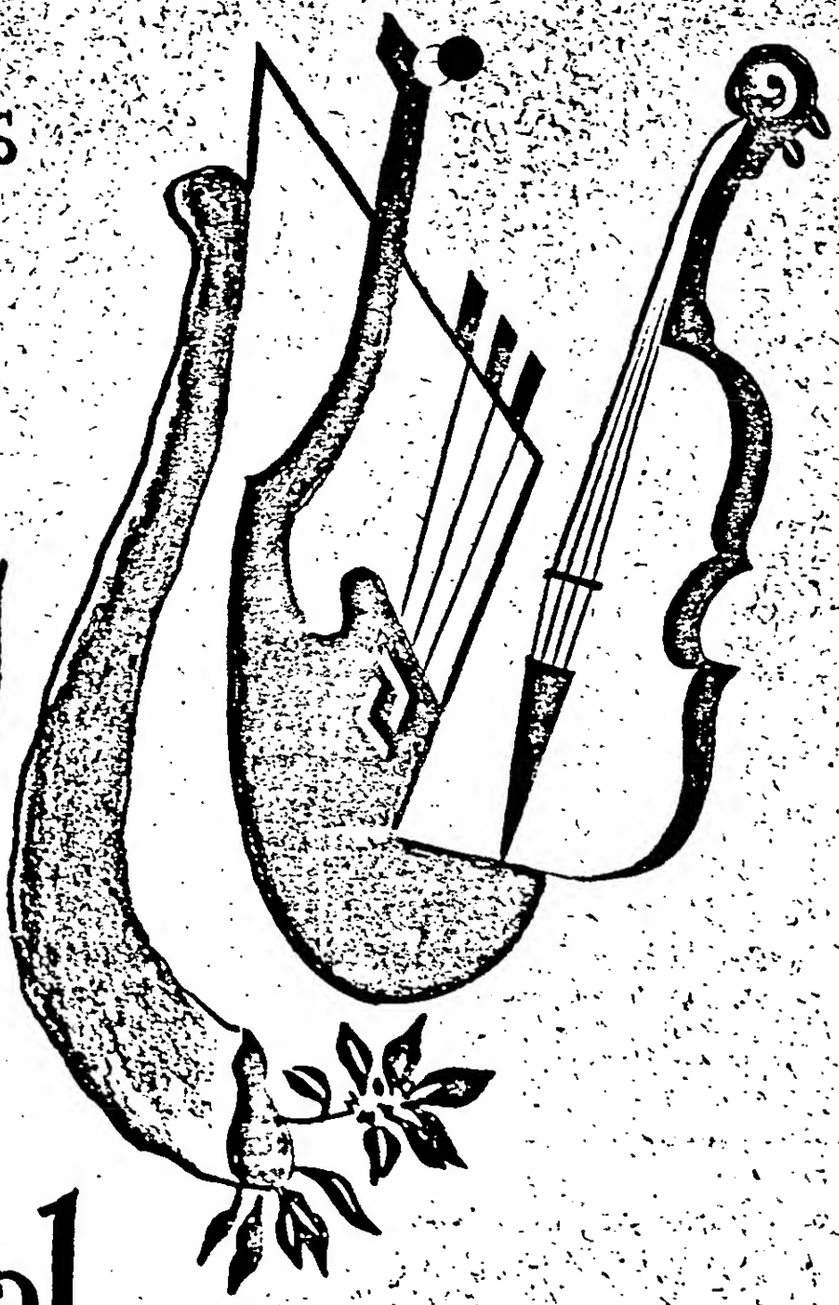
We pray that you exercise your right to Executive Clemency on behalf of the Rosenbergs and Sobell, so that no unalterable miscarriage of justice may deprive them of their lives.

Signed:

Bronx Artists

present

Spring Music Festival



program

Margaret McCaden Choral Ensemble
EVERETT THOMAS at PIANO

Lillian Goodman - Singer
MOE SCHOENBERG at PIANO

Guy Carawan - Folk Singer - Guitarist

Concert Pianist

String Ensemble

Reverend **EDWARD McGOWAN**

Sunday Evening March 29th, 8 p.m. Contribution $1

Hungarian House
2145 Southern Blvd. (181st. ST.)
Bronx, N.Y.C.

Bronx Artists for
Clemency for the Rosenbergs
862 E. TREMONT AVE. BRONX
DA 3-8999

b7d

[redacted]

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THE ELECTRIC CHAIR CAN'T KILL THE DOUBTS IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

Attend the

World's Largest Clemency Rally

RANDALL'S ISLAND STADIUM

Sunday Afternoon, April 26, 2 P. M.

ADMISSION $1.00

ALL UNDER 16 FREE

See and Hear

"THE ROSENBERG STORY"

A Dramatic Presentation

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

THERE IS DOUBT in the case: The U.S. Court of Appeals called the prosecutor's conduct "reprehensible."

THERE IS DOUBT in the case: The FBI admitted on December 1 that it helped an important witness lie under oath!

THERE IS DOUBT—Chief Justice James Wolfe of Utah, Judge Norval K. Harris, and other eminent judges and lawyers say that the Rosenbergs did not get a fair trial!

THERE IS DOUBT—Great scientists like Albert Einstein and Harold Urey say they believe the Rosenbergs rather than the Greenglasses and other government witnesses.

THERE IS DOUBT—The Rosenbergs maintain to this very day that they are innocent!

Write – Wire President Eisenhower:

COMMUTE THE DEATH SENTENCE!

b7d

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WRITE, WIRE PRES. TRUMAN

CLEMENCY

FOR THE

ROSENBERGS

141

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

sentenced to die on a framed "espionage" charge are innocent.
They are victims of a plot to whip up anti-Semitism.
They are the first Americans to be given the death sentence in peace time on such charges.

THEY MUST NOT DIE

Hear the facts taken from the trial record

ATTEND OUTDOOR RALLY
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

11:00 a.m. — Hunts Point (Krames Square)
11:45 a.m. — Freeman St. & Southern Blvd.
1:00 p.m. — Jennings St. & Minford Place
1:45 p.m. — 175th St. & Southern Blvd.
2:30 p.m. — Tremont Ave. & Prospect Ave.
3:15 p.m. — 182nd St. & Crotona Parkway
3:45 p.m. — Allerton & Olinville Aves.
4:30 p.m. — Claremont Parkway & 3rd Ave.
5:15 p.m. — Mt. Eden Ave. & Townsend Ave.

***Speaker:* MRS. HELEN SOBELL**
(Wife of Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years on same charge)

OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS

TEAR OFF AND MAIL

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
White House, Washington, D. C.

We in the Bronx are deeply shocked at the cruel and unprecedented death sentence of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, mother and father of two children. In the name of justice we ask you to use your office to commute the death sentence.

They shall not die!

.....
(name)

Issued by: BRONX COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE—1050 Sixth Ave., N.Y.C. Tel.: BRyant 9-9694

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Issued by: BRONX COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE—1050 Sixth Ave., N.Y.C. Tel.: BRyant 9-8694

Labor Unions Call for Clemency for the Rosenbergs

(Partial List)

The General Council of 57,000-member Ford Local 600, CIO Auto Workers

Chevrolet Local 659, CIO Auto Workers
Northwest Local 163, CIO Auto Workers
Locals 905, 981, AFL Painters
Local 1, AFL Bakery Workers
Local 1, AFL Jewelry Workers
Local 107, AFL Paper Bag Workers
Local 65, CIO Shoe Workers
Local 140, CIO Furniture Workers
Local 1782, AFL Carpenters Union
Local 23-75, Woodworkers, CIO
Local 735, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union
Locals 6 & 26, Longshore & Warehousemen's Union
N. Y. Joint Council, Int. Fur & Leather Workers
Fur Dressers & Dyers Joint Board
N. Y. Branch, Marine Cooks & Stewards
Local 555, Teachers Union
"Organized Labor," Official Publication of the AFL San Francisco Building Trades Council

ABE WILDER, President, Local 1946, United Mine Workers, Balkan, Kentucky

THOMAS HART, Financial Secretary, Local 7, AFL Int. Molders Union

CLEOPHAS T. JACOBS, President-Delegate, Local 968, AFL Int. Longshoremen's Assn.

ROBERT WHILEY, Secretary, Local 49, CIO United Packinghouse Workers, New York

DON W. HARRIS, President, District Council 8, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers

BEN GOLD, Int. President, Fur & Leather Workers

MAURICE TRAVIS, Int. Secy.-Treas., Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers

JOSEPH SELLY, Int. Pres., American Communications Association

(Unions listed for identification only)

ENGLAND:

LONDON TRADES COUNCIL, representing 600,000 members,

". . . place on record their horror and dismay at the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

ISRAEL:

WORKERS OF THE FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL WORKS:

"We wish to protest against the death sentences of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

FRANCE:

GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR wired: "We strongly protest the death sentences."

ITALY:

FERNANDO SANTI, Deputy, Italian Parliament, and Secretary, Italian General Federation of Labor:

"The death sentence against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg is creating doubts and pain in the hearts of all just men."

IRELAND:

BELFAST TRADES COUNCIL, representing every union member in city, wired the President asking for clemency for the Rosenbergs.

The Appeal for Clemency Is Now Before the President

- Write or wire the President today, asking him to grant executive clemency and commute the death sentence of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.
- Have your local union send a request for clemency to the President.

Issued by:

NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
1050 Sixth Avenue • New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9683

IF YOU KNEW...

- If you knew that the execution of two people—in the electric chair—might affect your own life in the future . . .
- If you knew that grave doubts exist in the minds of many people about certain points in this case . . .
- If you knew this, you would want to know the facts . . .

There Are Grave Doubts —in the Rosenberg Case

A young married couple, both members of trade unions, sit in the death house today, convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage."

Nobody argues that spies should go unpunished.

But there are two things we want to be sure of before punishing people—especially when that punishment is death.

- Are they guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt?
- Are they getting *equal* punishment for their crime, or are they getting something "extra" because of the general hysteria surrounding their case?

INNOCENT?

The Rosenbergs deny to this day that they ever conspired to pass atomic secrets to Russia.

Prof. Albert Einstein and Dr. Harold C. Urey, two of the top scientists in the world, say they aren't convinced that the Rosenbergs are guilty.

Prof. Stephen Love, Chairman of the Character and Fitness Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court, says he thinks the Rosenbergs did not get a fair trial.

Thousands of other lawyers and scientists and sociologists say the same thing.

They have read the court record in the Rosenberg Case—and they fear the jury was influenced by newspaper stories and the general atmosphere of tension that exists today.

They point to the fact that the Rosenbergs weren't even charged with giving secrets to Russia—but with "conspiring" to do that. That means that the prosecution knew it couldn't prove a case of "espionage." They point out that, just as in the famous Tom Mooney case, the FBI has admitted that perjured testimony was used to convict the Rosenbergs.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SAY: "GUILTY—BUT . . ."

Millions of Americans, through letters to the President, through prayers, special resolutions in their unions and fraternal organizations, churches and synagogues, have asked that the death sentence be commuted—while taking no stand on the innocence or guilt of the Rosenbergs.

Among them are over 2,000 Protestant clergymen, the *Nation* magazine, the *New Republic*, trade unions, women's organizations, and others.

They ask for clemency because the Rosenbergs are the first and only Americans ever sentenced to death on such a charge—in peacetime or wartime.

- Even people convicted of treason—of dealing with an *enemy*—have been given only 10 year sentences (Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose, others).
- Death sentences in political cases (Sacco-Vanzetti, Tom Mooney, for example) always add to the hysteria of the times, and are used by anti-labor elements to deprive the unions of their rights.

FOR THESE REASONS AMERICAN LABOR SHOULD ASK THE PRESIDENT TO COMMUTE THE DEATH SENTENCES.

Unanswered Questions in the Rosenberg Case

- Why did Prosecutor Saypol use perjured testimony to help convict the Rosenbergs?

  FBI Agent John A. Harrington admitted in a sworn affidavit, on December 1, 1952, that, with HIS knowledge, a government witness lied at the trial.

- Why didn't Prosecutor Saypol call top atomic scientists Dr. Harold C. Urey and Dr. S. Robert Oppenheimer to testify after he had announced to the court and the press that they would be witnesses?

  Dr. Urey subsequently made a public statement saying, "I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses."

- Why did Prosecutor Saypol rely on the testimony of David Greenglass, a machinist with no scientific education, who said he drew up a sketch of the atom bomb by "overhearing" conversations?

  Greenglass, who admitted he stole secrets from the government, received a fifteen year sentence after he implicated the Rosenbergs. His wife, also a confessed spy, was never even indicted and is free today.

- Why did Prosecutor Saypol falsely announce to the press that another "spy" would support Greenglass's testimony?

  After sensational headlines in the newspapers this "spy" was never produced. The U.S. Court of Appeals called Saypol's conduct "wholly reprehensible" and one "that cannot be too severely condemned." They said that Saypol's action should have caused a mistrial.

COMMENTS ON CLEMENCY:

The Catholic news magazine, COMMONWEAL, states:

". . . Whether they would have received as drastic a sentence had they been tried, say, in 1946 rather than during the cold war, is doubtful. . . ."

The JEWISH DAILY FORWARD states:

". . . the appeal to the President should be made on the ground of humaneness, compassion and mercy. . . . Now all energies must be exerted toward one goal—to stop the execution. If this should succeed, then those who believe in the possibility of vindicating them can attempt to do so."

THE CHURCHMAN magazine states:

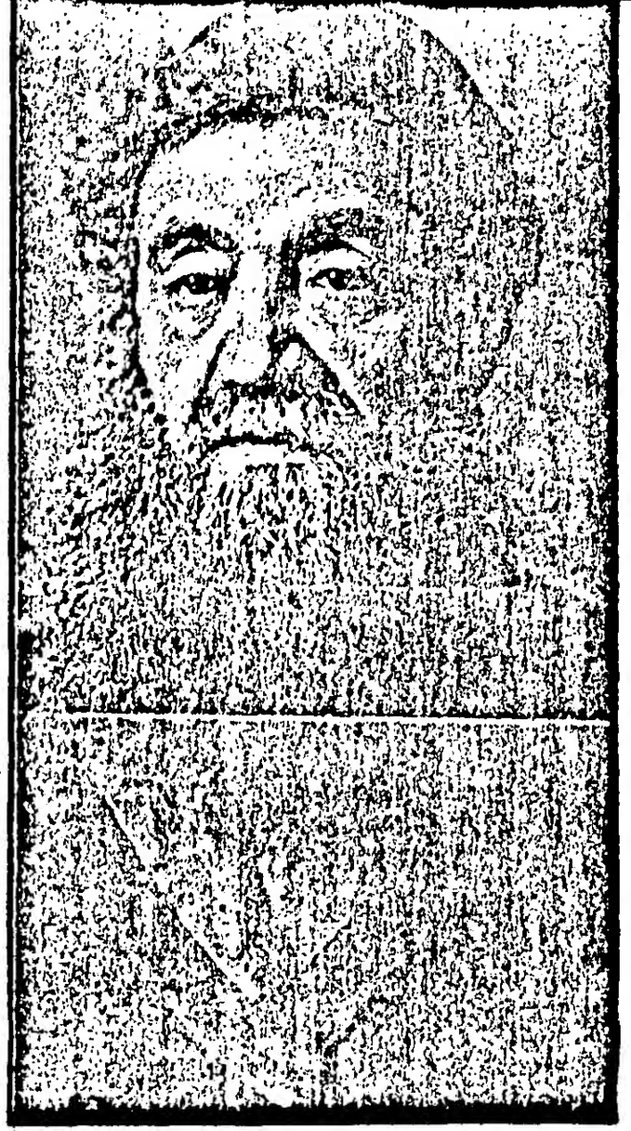
"We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the name of the United States."

א ווארט וועגן דעם ראזענבערג־פראצעס

פון

הרב דר. מאיר שאַרף

ארויסגעגעבן פון דער נאציאָנאַלער קאָמיטע צו קריגן גערעכטיקייט אין דעם ראזענבערג פּראָצעס
1050 עוועניו אוו די אַמעריקעס (וועקסטע עוועניו), ניו־יאָרק 18, נ. י.



A Statement on the ROSENBERG CASE by a Distinguished Leader of Orthodox Jewry

RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF

Published by National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 Avenue of the Americas, New York 18, N. Y.

"The Truth is Dear Above All"

by Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff

I love my country. I love the principles of equality and brotherhood which are the foundation of American principles—and the truth I love dearly above all.

In all my actions and decisions, I am guided by our Holy Torah and by our Prophets.

I, an Orthodox Rabbi, am firmly convinced that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell, charged with espionage (the Rosenbergs were sentenced to death and Sobell to 30 years imprisonment) are entitled to a hearing in the Supreme Court of the United States.

As a devout Jew, I revere our country's laws, which carry out the humane principles enunciated in the Torah, and I am reminded that the Declaration of Independence is of one piece with our leader Moses' exhortation: "Proclaim freedom throughout the land." Therefore, it is inconceivable to me that in our country a death sentence should be so lightly given, as was the case in the Rosenberg Trial.

I have studied and pondered long over the facts in the Rosenberg Case, which concern not only one human being, but four living souls, a father, a mother, and two small sons. The saving of one soul, as the saying goes, is the saving of the souls of future generations.

I came to the firm conviction that something had to be done to save these persons from an undeserved fate.

It became known to me that there was in New York a National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, and I telephoned their office.

I want to emphasize that this was done at my own initiative, and without solicitation from them.

I volunteered to appear and speak at the very next public meeting they would hold.

I consider it my profound duty to address myself to friends and foes, to all, be they Jews or non-Jews, irrespective of institutional affiliation, or political persuasion, to participate in the work of securing justice for the Rosenbergs and Sobell.

Once this is achieved, all truth-loving people will have secured a great triumph, and the children of the Rosenbergs and Sobell will be reunited with their parents.

RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF

A comprehensive, detailed statement by Rabbi Sharff, answering those who attacked him for participating in what they termed a "Communist front," will be published in the very near future.

„דער אמת איז ליבער פון אַלעס"

פון הרב דר. מאיר שאַרף

איך האָב ליב מיין לאַנד, איך האָב ליב די שיינע גרונט־פּרינציפּן און לעבנס־שטייגער פון דער אַמעריקאַנער נאַציע, — נאָר דעם אמת האָב איך ליבער פון אַלעס! און אַלץ וואָס איך טו בין איך מיך סומך אויף אונזער תורה הקדושה און אויף אונזערע חז"ל.

איך, אַן ארטאָדאָקסישער רב, בין איבערצייגט, אַז עטעל און דזשוליוס ראָזענבערג און מאָרטין סאָבעל, וואָס זיינען אָנגעקלאָגט געוואָרן אין שפּיאָנאַזש און זיינען פאַראורטיילט גע־וואָרן (די ראָזענבערגס צו טויט־שטראָף און סאָבעל 39 יאָר תפיסה), זיינען באַרעכטיקט צו אַ פאַרהער אין סופרים קאורט פון די פאַראייניקטע שטאַטן.

אַלס רעליגיעזער איד, וואָס אַכטעט זייער הויך אונזער לאַנד און אירע געזעצן, וועמעס גרונט־פּרינציפּן פון פרייהייט זיינען באַגרינדעט אויף פסוקים פון דער תורה און וועמעס פאָר־מאָסער פון דער אומאָפּהענגיקייט דעקלאַראַציע, האָבן אַוועקגעלייגט אין יסוד פון דער פרייהייט דעם פסוק פון משה רבינו: „וקראתם דרור בארץ לכל יושביה", איר זאָלט אויסרופן פרייהייט אין גאַנצן לאַנד צו אַלע אירע אייטוואוינער, לייגט זיך ניט אויפן שכל, אַז אין אַזאַ לאַנד זאָל מען משפטן טויט־שטראָף און אַזאַ לאַנג־פאַרמיניגען תפיסה־שטראָף מיט אַזאַ גרינגן געמיט.

איך האָב זיך געגריבלט און פאַרטיפט אין דעם ראָזענבערג־משפט. עס האַנדלט זיך דאָ נישט בלויז וועגן איין נפש, נאָר וועגן פיר נפשות — דער טאַטע, די מוטער און זייערע צוויי קינדער. איך האָב זיך דערמאָנט אין דעם מאמר חז"ל: „המקיים נפש אחת מישראל כאילו קיים עולם מלא" — ווער עס ראַטעוועט איין נפש פון אַ אידן, איז גלייך ווי ער וואָלט געראַטעוועט די גאַנצע וועלט (סנהדרין פרק ד', משנה ה'), און איך בין געקומען צום פעסטן באַשלוס, אַז עפּעס דאַרף געטאָן ווערן צו ראַטעווען די אומגליקלעכע נפשות.

איך האָב זיך דערוואוסט, אַז עס איז פאַראַנען אין ניו־יאָרק אַ קאָמיטעט, וואָס רופט זיך „נאַציאָנאַלער קאָמיטעט צו קריגן גערעכטיקייט אין דעם ראָזענבערג פּראָצעס" און איך האָב אָנגערופן דעם אָפּיס. איך שטעל פעסט, אַז ניט ווער עס איז פון אָפּיס האָט מיך איינגעלאַדן אָדער גערעדט פריער צו מיר, נאָר איך אַליין האָב זיך פאַרגעשלאָגן דעם אָפּיס צו קומען צו זיי, ווען זיי וועלן אָפּהאַלטן אַ פאַרזאַמלונג.

איך האָלט עס פאַר מיין חוב זיך צו ווענדן צו אַלע אידן, פרומע און ניט־פרומע, ציוניסטן און ניט־ציוניסטן, נאַציאָנאַליסטן און ליבעראַלן, גדולי ישראל און, להבדיל, פושעי ישראל, מיט איין וואָרט — צו אַלע אידן און ניט־אידן, אַז זיי זאָלן העלפן דעם קאָמיטעט אין זיין קאַמף צו ברענגען די ראָזענבערג קעיס פאַרן סופרים קאורט.

מיט די וואָס האָבן מיך באַשולדיקט, אַז איך, אַן ארטאָדאָקסישער רב, האָב נישט באַדאַרפט זיך באַטייליקן אין דער אַרבעט פון „קאָמיטעט", וואָס זיי רופן אַ „קאָמוניסטישע מאַכערייקע", וועל איך זיך אויס־טענה'ן אַן אַנדערש מאָל. איצט אָבער איז די צייט צו קורץ. עס האַנדלט זיך וועגן טויט און לעבן, וועגן ראַטעווען יידישע נפשות, וועלכע זיינען פאַראורטיילט געוואָרן אַן שום פאַקטישע באַווייזן.

דעריבער האַלט איך, אַז די ראָזענבערג קעיס דאַרף איבער־נעטמען ווערן אין העכסטן געריכט און איך בין זיכער און גלויב באמונה שלימה, אַז דאָס העכסטע געריכט וועט אויפנעמען דעם אָפּיל פאַר אַ נייעם משפט, און אַז אַמעריקאַנער גערעכטיקייט וועט זיגן.

הרב דר. מאיר שאַרף, ברוקלין, ניו־יאָרק

אַ פולער אויספירלעכער ענטפער פון הרב דר. מאיר שאַרף צו די, וועלכע האָבן אים אָנגעקלאָגט פאַר זיין נעמען אָנטייל אין דעם „ראָזענ־בערג־קאָמיטעט", וועט פאַרעפנטלעכט ווערן אין אַ קורצער צייט שרום.

The truth will have to be sought in the sinuosities of the human mind. Every life is beset with frustrations. All of us suffer vexation and disappointment. Psychologists have studied the tendency of organisms, whether human or animal, to retaliate for frustrations by striking back. If the organism can not reach its real offender, it attacks some substitute, some "displacement," as the psychologists call it; like the man who, reprimanded by his employer, yet not daring to answer his employer, comes homes and vents his spleen on his wife and his children: or like the boy who resented the domination of his father but, powerless to get even with his father, waited twenty-five years and shot down "Father" Abraham. That boy's name was John Wilkes Booth. This displacement of grievances is a familiar psychological phenomenon. Unable to get at those who are the real causes of our woes, we wreak vengeance on scapegoats.

OUR BASIC TROUBLE

FOR some people, the scapegoat is the Jew. For others, it is the Catholic. For still others, it is the "capitalists" or "Wall Street." The favorite scapegoat of the present hour is the "communists." This does not deny that there really are people who call themselves communists and who feverishly advance extreme theories about the obligations of the privileged toward the under-privileged. Most of us Americans dissent from those theories, even though the Republican Party and the Democratic Party to which we belong may count, among their followers, people holding views but slightly less radical. The fact is that the opinions propounded by the communists have little to do with the conflict. Communism is, for us, hardly a vehicle of political or economic ideas. It has grown to be an unconscious symbol of the troubles which embitter our lives.

Regrettably the Rosenberg case has become implicated with that deadly word. Were the case to be judged on its merits, a great swell of protest would arise against the sentence of death. Public opinion would encourage and support the President in commuting the sentence.* The issue has unhappily gotten entangled in clichés which cause Americans to forget that Americans are merciful.

One is reminded of the adage, "Know thyself." If we would look deeply into our souls, we might find that our troubles are rooted not in the "communists" but in the frustrations of our private lives. Once aware of this, we would recall words spoken more than nine decades ago by the noblest American of them all. Ours would then be the hope that America's splendid ideals of mercy and of brotherhood will yet reign within all hearts "when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

** The case can not come before the President until all juridical expedients have been exhausted. The Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case is engaged in raising funds to finance an appeal to the Supreme Court and, if granted, a new trial.*

MERCY for the ROSENBERGS

By ABRAHAM CRONBACH

Dr. Cronbach is a distinguished rabbi and scholar. He is a former professor of Social Science and the author of several books on peace. Rabbi Cronbach is the Honorary Chairman of the Jewish Peace Fellowship.

Published by

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y.

THE American people are a merciful people. American sympathies are ever awakened by human suffering. In a thousand ways, among which our vast benevolences furnish glorious examples, Americans have demonstrated that they are warm-hearted and not hard-hearted. Brotherhood is our ideal, recurrently acclaimed within our several religions as well as by our unchurched. All of us have, at times, fallen short of those ideals. But, deep in our souls, we cherish those ideals. Rare is the American who does not honor mercy and does not revere brotherhood.

Also among American ideals is that of loyalty to the United States. Sometimes religious ideals and national ideals conflict, and devout people occasionally affirm that there is a law of God which is higher than the law of the state. This is not our own position. Most of us defer to the laws of the state without reservation. The laws of the state should be obeyed. To the laws of the state, everyone owes allegiance.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg have been convicted of a law violation. Large numbers of people look upon this conviction as unjust, like the conviction of Leo Frank or Alfred Dreyfus or others who, though pronounced guilty, were subsequently proved innocent. Some deem Julius and Ethel Rosenberg innocent. There are also those who, while non-committal as to the couple's guilt or innocence, do nonetheless insist that the trial was unfairly conducted. Persons versed in the law have pointed out what they regard as improprieties in the proceedings. But we shall waive all this. Let us concede that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg did commit the crime with which they are charged. Let us grant that the trial entailed no breach of justice. Still, is it compatible with the finest in the American spirit that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg be put to death?

It is argued that, through the betrayal of atomic secrets by the Rosenbergs, Russia gained a military advantage. That the act alleged of the Rosenbergs imparted to Russia any military advantage has, by no means, been proved. But granted that such advantage for Russia might have ensued, others convicted of the identical crime—Fuchs, Greenglass, Gold, Sobell, Slack, Simons, May, Brothman—have not been sentenced to die: they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. If the death penalty was, in those other cases, not requisite for our national defense, why should it be so regarded in the case of the Rosenbergs?

UNIQUE FACTORS

THE misdeed imputed to the Rosenbergs is said to have had its inception in 1944 and 1945. At that time, the United States and Russia were allies. It is difficult to see why Russia should, at that time, have found espionage at all necessary. The United States was, at that time, sharing its military secrets with Russia as it was with England and with Canada. As matter of public record, Harry Hopkins himself, at that period, mediated the transfer of nuclear materials to the Soviets. The law against atomic espionage does not, it is true, distinguish between a friendly power and a hostile power. It forbids the betrayal of atomic secrets to *any* foreign power. But must the punishment be made equally severe in both instances? There is a huge difference between a friendly power and a hostile power. In the breadth of that difference, is there no room for mercy?

The law violation of which the Rosenbergs are accused is alleged to have occurred at a time when the atomic bomb was unknown to everyone except a few highly trained experts; it was prior to Hiroshima. The day after Hiroshima, all of us knew about the atomic bomb. Previous to Hiroshima, none of us knew. Even if the Rosenbergs did conspire to betray atomic secrets, they could not possibly have comprehended the import of what they were doing. Clemency to the Rosenbergs can, in no way, constitute a precedent against the death sentence for future infractions. The factors in the case are utterly unique. Never can those same factors recur.

All of this applies regardless of what might be said about the people by whom the Rosenbergs are being aided. Among those seeking to save the Rosenbergs are people of all political parties, several religious cults, and various walks of life. All of them are people like the reader and the writer of these words, Americans whose interests lie in America, who have everything to gain if America gains and everything to lose if America loses. By no stretch of the imagination, can any friend of the Rosenbergs, in any way, profit by anything through which America is injured.

The sinister word "Communism" has entered into the situation. There are words which, by a kind of fatal spell, dissipate thought and generate fury. Among such words, "Communism" plays at present a dreadful role. The word conveys so many different meanings that it has become almost void of meaning but, the less meaning a word holds, the greater sometimes its potency for passions which unbalance thinking.

THE OMINOUS WORD

LONG before the cold war began, a communist was understood to be someone who aims to overthrow the United States government "by force and violence." Our imbroglio with Russia has, during the last seven years, woefully intensified this charge. A communist is now asserted to be someone who promotes the interests of Russia in opposition to the interests of the United States. Would it be out of place to ask the reader: Have you ever met anyone who advocated the overthrow of the United States? Have you ever read any book, article or pamphlet which urged such overthrow? Have you ever heard any public speaker recommend such overthrow? It is sometimes maintained that people harbor such designs but keep them secret, forbearing to express them openly. Yet how can we possibly know anyone's unexpressed thoughts? With equal warrant, one might accuse, of clandestine subversiveness, Dwight Eisenhower, Adlai E. Stevenson, Harry S. Truman or Robert A. Taft. Still, let us suppose that the friends of the Rosenbergs consist only of traitors. How does that touch the merits of the Rosenberg case? How does that alter the preciousness of mercy? Must the Rosenbergs suffer because of the sins of their friends?

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
1050 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. - BR 9-9694

A FACT SHEET ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE CASE: NEWSPAPER COMMENT

Did anti-Semitism play a part in the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell (the Rosenbergs were sentenced to death, Sobell to 30 years for alleged atomic espionage)? The following newspaper comment, mainly from the Yiddish and the English-Jewish press, helps answer this question.

Although the following extract from the NEW YORK TIMES (December 26, 1951) does not refer directly to the case, it is relevant: "Oak Ridge, Tenn., Dec. 25 (UP) - The Government said today it was less concerned about Communists and saboteurs than about hoodlums .... United States law enforcement officials gave two reasons for the apparent absence of Communists here: 1) a predominance of pure Anglo-Saxon stock. ..."

RABBI G. GEORGE FOX in the SENTINEL: Chicago English Jewish weekly, (Feb. 7, 1952): "...When Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were condemned to death for allegedly giving secret information to enemy spies, I condemned the verdict and accused the presiding judge, who happened to be a Jew, of leaning over backward in his desire to show that Jews condemn treason ... (His decision) will be found unjust, if not illegal ... I believe strongly that a grass roots letter and telegram protest to President Truman will get those who are moved by the injustice of the decision, to some action." (Feb. 14, 1952): "The Jewish angle is important as a matter of our public relations. The death of the Rosenbergs for treason, even though undeserved, will give our enemies a handle to a paddle which will never be out of use. Let us avoid such a possibility."

RABBI LOUIS D. GROSS, publisher of the JEWISH EXAMINER, (March 14, 1952): "After plowing through volumes of the evidence presented in this tragic case, I am not convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Rosenbergs are guilty ... It is quite possible, and very disturbing, to feel that the hapless Rosenberg couple may have been victimized by the anti-Communist hysteria which has been sweeping this country with deadly effect ... Why did Judge Kaufman in this case impose the extreme penalty? ... Did he think the death sentences against the Rosenbergs was necessary to counteract the anti-Semitic charge of Communism against Jews in general? Apparently this jurist has not learned that anti-Semitism has nothing to do with the truth."

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD (April 6, 1951): "When we editors got the news that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death, a shudder passed through all of us ... We are certain that every Jew who read this sad news felt this way. From our hearts came the words, 'Death sentence, too horrible' ... Every Jewish home will be shattered by this tragedy."

THE JEWISH DAY, editorial (April 8, 1951): "Judge Kaufman's verdict is more in harmony with the time in which we live at present than with the time during which the crime was committed. We hope that a way will be found to set aside the death sentence."

PHINEAS J. BIRON, Syndicated English-Jewish columnist, in the INDIANAPOLIS JEWISH CHRONICLE (March 7, 1952): "... Not a single jury member was Jewish and this in the city of New York, which has a Jewish population amounting to one third of the total population ... Strange, or rather sinister, if you ask us." (November 9, 1951): "It is not for us to decide whether the Rosenbergs are guilty, but from what we have read of the legal proceedings we have come to the conclusion that more than reasonable doubt exists as to their guilt."

SAMUEL B. GACH, publisher of the CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE, (February 29, 1952): "My only concern was why a Jewish judge had to ... decide a death penalty for peacetime espionage and so scribble a shameful precedent on the pages of American jurisprudence. It could only have been because the legal killer, Judge Irving Kaufman, is a Jew, and the defendants were Jews; and to prove that he was unbiased, he acquiesced to legal murder in the time of national hysteria and only because the be-robed and politically annointed punk was a scared and synthetic Americ[illegible]

and a weaker than no-good Jew ... I abhor the death sentence and despise the judge who proclaimed [illegible]" (March 7, 1952) (In [illegible] to criticism for his position on the case): "Was Judge Kaufman in full command of his emotional balance when he passed sentence? Are any of us vacuumed against the witch-hunting hysteria? ..." (March 14, 1952): "The domestic Hitlers and anti-Semites will wield the degradation of the Rosenbergs as a cudgel with which to bludgeon ALL Jews ... We shall continue NOT to be silent."

M. DANZIS, then Editor, in the JEWISH DAY (April 12, 1951): "The death sentence which Judge Kaufman passed on the Rosenbergs left bitter doubts as to the justice of the verdict and above all, about the note which the judge sounded in his summary before the jury. ... The fact is, that the Rosenberg trial was Jewish throughout because of the fact that the accused, the judge, the prosecutor and the lawyer were all Jewish. The press made a point of it. In Hearst's Daily Mirror there was an editorial saying that those who do not wish to accuse all Jews of Communism because of the Rosenbergs, should not forget that the prosecutor who conducted the trial against the Rosenbergs, and the judge who condemned them to death, are themselves Jewish. In other words, that Judge Kaufman and prosecutor Saypol are atoning not only for the sins of the Rosenbergs, but of all other Jews.

"The death sentence which Judge Kaufman issued left the feeling that precisely because he is a Jew, he went to an extreme and applied the heavy hand of judgment ... There is a suspicion that the fact that Judge Kaufman is a Jew perhaps unconsciously motivated him to issue a verdict which, in the opinion of many, is considered to be unjust and brutal ... One cannot overlook the Jewish element in this unfortunate, tragic Rosenberg trial ... if the Rosenbergs are, as Judge Kaufman has said, guilty of the death of 50,000 American soldiers in Korea, one can easily hold the Rosenbergs and their like responsible for the atom war against America.

"Has Judge Kaufman considered to what has speech can lead?"

H. LEIVIK, well-known Yiddish poet, in the JEWISH DAY, (April 16, 1951): "What led the judge to give the extreme penalty (to Ethel Rosenberg)? Is it not perhaps the fact that the judge is a Jew and the defendants are Jews? The judge was confronted with the bitter fact that those tried for treason were Jews. He himself, a Jew struggled with his duty to be objective and did not have the strength to rise above himself, did not have the power to free himself from today's heated tensions in the land, and was also afraid that perhaps, if he were not to give them the death penalty, he would be suspected of not having done so because he is a Jew ... Precisely because against the accused Jews stood Jewish accusers and a Jewish judge, whose loyalty to America is beyond a shadow of a doubt -- precisely because the judge should have been free from every Jewish complex - he should under no circumstances have issued the death sentence in this trial against the mother of two children... It is hard to accept the severity of the verdict ... The death penalty should be changed."

LOUIS HARAP, Managing Editor of JEWISH LIFE, (January 1952): "It has been said that no anti-Semitism intruded into the trial itself. But this is to overlook the fact that Irving Saypol, the Jewish prosecutor, did not permit a single Jew, of the three hundred jurors in the panel, to sit on the jury ... Irving Saypol as is now widely known, was admonished by the Court of Appeals in August 1951, for his appeals, to 'racial prejudice' against a Jewish witness in the Remington case."

In an article in the CANADIAN JEWISH WEEKLY (February 28, 1952): "A study of the details of the case shows that it will go down in history as a parallel to the Dreyfus case -- and the Sacco-Vanzetti case."

For additional material and inquiries, write to NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N.Y.

67d

~~BALTIMORE EXHIBIT No.~~

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE to SECURE JUSTICE
In the ROSENBERG CASE

2901 18th STREET, # 503
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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April 21, 1952

Dear Friends:

A young Jewish couple unjustly condemned to death needs your help.

Last year Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, parents of two small boys, were tried in an atmosphere of prejudice and fear and — solely on the uncorroborated testimony of two self-confessed criminals — were convicted of "espionage" and sentenced to death. On similar testimony, Morton Sobell, a radio technician, received 30 years.

Although the trial was held in New York, a city one-third Jewish, there was not a single Jew on the jury. And to the charge itself Ethel Rosenberg has answered: "We said and we say again that we are victims of the grossest type of political frame-up ever known in America." Despite this the U. S. Circuit Court on February 25, 1952 upheld the verdict, and the Rosenbergs now face death. To avert the carrying out of this dreadful sentence, The Washington Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case is making a campaign to arouse the conscience of the people of Washington.

This case commands attention not only because of the unprecedented severity of the sentence. It is disturbing also because a growing wave of terror has begun against the Jewish people in the wake of the trial. In a score of cities synagogues have been bombed and desecrated. With memories of Hitlerism still fresh in our minds, such events are enough to make one heartsick. It becomes all the more imperative that every thinking and feeling person pitch in and help the Rosenbergs win a new trial in which they can establish their innocence.

People reading the enclosed Fact Sheet are shocked to find that the Rosenberg trial lacked guarantees of fairness which all Americans have a right to expect under the Constitution. The entire Bill of Rights will be in the gravest danger if the Rosenbergs are allowed to die. Here are two simple but important things you can do.

Contribute financially to this Committee to help the Rosenbergs win a new trial. We also urge you to join the Committee and add strength to the campaign.

Write — even if only a postcard — to President Harry S. Truman, the White House, and to Attorney-General James P. McGranery, Justice Department, urging that the Rosenbergs and Sobell be given a new, fair trial. Ask the Justice Department not to contest the appeal of the cases to the Supreme Court. Help make the words of Rabbi G. George Fox, prominent midwest religious leader, quickly come true: "I am certain that Judge Kaufman's decision will be found unjust, if not illegal."

Very truly yours,

John Stone

JOHN STONE, Chairman

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL *TODAY:*

I enclose $_____ as my contribution to secure justice in the Rosenberg case. (Checks should be made out to the National Committee to secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case).

I wish to join the Committee. ☐ Please notify me of membership meetings.

Send me _____ free copies of your 32-page pamphlet on the Rosenberg case.

NAME_____ ADDRESS_____

(Address all communications to Mr. John Stone, Chairman, Washington Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 2901 18th St., N. W. # 503, Washington, D.C.)

~~BALTIMORE EXHIBIT NO. 3~~

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO URGE
CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
P.O. Box 2521, Arlington Sta.
Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 24, 1952

Dear Friend:

Enclosed you will find a letter written by Mr. Emanuel Bloch, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Julius Rosenberg. The letter is self-explanatory.

It may be of interest to you to know that there has been a world-wide response to the plea for clemency. Such prominent people as: Waldo Frank, eminent writer; Pablo Picasso, famous French artist; B. Z. Goldberg, "Jewish Day" columnist; Rabbi Meyer Schaeff, leader of orthodox Jewry; Dorothy Day, editor of the "Catholic Worker", and scores of others including the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Herzog.

You may send your reply to Mr. Bloch at the above address or to the committee and we will forward it for you. You can be sure your letter will be held in the strictest of confidence by Mr. Bloch, if you so desire.

If you would like any more information or material you may also write to the above address.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this vital matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian Finn

Lillian Finn,
Chairman

BALTIMORE EXHIBIT NO. 1

RABBIS OF JERUSALEM CALL FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

TEXT OF SIGNED PETITION SENT BY RABBIS OF STATE OF ISRAEL TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

MR. PRESIDENT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE HOLY LAND TAKE THE LIBERTY OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY PLEADING WITH YOU TO EXERT THE POWER OF CLEMENCY GIVEN YOU IN THE TRAGIC CASE OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG STOP WE DARE NOT ENTER INTO THE DETAILS OF TH TRIAL WHICH ENDED IN A JUDGMENT OF GUILT AND DEATH-SENTENCE THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO IMAGINE THAT JEWS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD PARTICULARLY IN A LAND AS RICH IN MERIT AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD ACT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY STOP AT LEAST WE KNOW OF NO SUCH HAPPENING IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE STOP

ALSO WE KNOW OF NO PRECEDENT IN WHICH ANY PERSON WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ON A SIMILAR ACCUSATION IN PEACE-TIME STOP WHATEVER THE PARTICULARS WE APPEAL TO Y OU MR PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE COUPLE WHO ARE PARENTS OF TWO LITTLE CHILDREN STOP

EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THEY HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO IF KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT SOME DAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE STOP IN SUCH CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE CLEAN NO INNOCENT LIFE SHALL HAVE BEEN TAKEN GUILTLESSLY STOP

LET YOUR EXCELLENCY CALL TO MIND THE MILLIONS OF GUILTLESS JEWS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE CLEMENCY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THOSE MURDEROUS AND CRUEL ACTS OF MONSTROSITY STOP WE HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT AN ACT OF CLEMENCY IN THIS CASE IS EXCEEDINGLY VITAL AND YOUR NAME AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN HONORABLE PORTION OF MANKIND YOUR DEEP RELIGIOUS FEELING AND YOUR AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WITHIN YOU LEADS US TO LAY BEFORE YOU THIS OUR HUMBLE PETITION IN FULL HOPE THAT YOU WILL GRANT IT STOP

GOD ALONE KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH STOP MAY THIS YOUR CLEMENCY BE A FITTING CROWN TO YOUR GREAT CAREER STOP

SIGNED

GERSHON LAPIDOTH RUBEN MENOIS ELIJA MORDECAI WALKOVSKY JACOB KLIMAS ISSER ZALMAN MELZER ZALMAN SOROTZKIN YEHIEL YEHIEL SHLAGER EPHRAIM BLUM ISRAEL WAIZ SHLOMO ZALMAN ZEVIN DAVID SPARBER JOSEPH ADLER AKIBA SOFFER RABBI WEIDENFELD ABRAHAM KARELITZ JEHOSHUA WEINRECH ISRAEL WELZ HAIM JOEL DURANI JACOB TAVITZKY MICHAL TIKUTZINSKY

Mail this leaflet

President Truman
White House
Washington, D. C.

I add my name to this message respectfully requesting clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Name _____

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO URGE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
P. O. Box 2521, Arlington Station, Baltimore 15, Md.

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A Letter From Six Queens Clergymen

November 20, 1952

Will you join other religious leaders in seeking the tempering of justice with mercy in the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who are now awaiting death in the electric chair at Sing Sing?

Never before in the history of our country have defendants in a case of this kind been subjected to the death penalty by a civil court in peace time. As you probably know, the major figures in the ring to which the Rosenbergs allegedly belonged—Klaus Fuchs, Harry Gold and David Greenglass, all self-confessed spies—received sentences ranging from fourteen to thirty years. In Canada self-confessed spies received sentences ranging from two to ten years. The Rosenbergs, still professing their innocence, have received the death penalty.

Surely you will agree that such an extreme penalty is completely alien to all of the moral tenets of justice and fairness which have always governed our democracy. Without entering into the question of innocence or guilt of this young couple, and completely dissociating ourselves from any ideological questions involved, we respectfully urge you to appeal to President Truman—either by letter or telegram—for clemency so that their lives may be spared. We hope, too, that you will sign the enclosed card so that we may list you as one of the religious leaders in the appeal for clemency.

We who have signed this letter have done so as individuals—speaking for no church or synagogue, no congregation or group. But, as individuals, we do believe that executive clemency is in order for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Charles L. Carrington — Rev. Charles L. Carrington

Rabbi Max Felshin, D.D. — Rabbi Max Felshin D.D.

Rev. Frederick Reustle — Rev. Frederick Reustle

Rev. R. L. Ryan — Rev. R. L. Ryan

Rev. Howard C. Shaffer, Jr. — Rev. Howard C. Shaffer Jr.

Rev. Joseph H. Titus — Joseph H. Titus

Please address mail to: Box No. 5, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing 64, N. Y.

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What you can do to save their lives:

1. Send a letter, telegram, or postal card to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C., respectfully urging him to commute the death sentence for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

2. Send a similar letter, telegram, or postal card to your own Congressman and to your two U.S. Senators, respectfully urging them to speak up for a commutation of sentence for the Rosenbergs.

3. Ask your organization—church, union, synagogue, veterans' group, women's auxiliary, social club, bridge club—to send similar letters to the President and other officials.

4. Write to your local newspaper, and visit the editors with a delegation, asking them to speak up editorially for equal American justice for the Rosenbergs.

5. Send a contribution—whatever you can afford—to the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case to help us carry on this work. Checks may be made out to Joseph Brainin, Chairman, 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. Tell us what else you think should be done.

World Public Opinion Clamors For Clemency

DOROTHY THOMPSON,
The Washington Star, April 18, 1951:

"The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . In 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

MAX LERNER,
New York Post, June 19, 1952:

"I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

The Very Rev. C. W. CRANDLER,
Dean of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, October 27, 1952:

"As between us the offense may be, it does not merit a death sentence, and I earnestly believe that in this instance the president of your republic will allow this sentence to stand."

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD,
Article by editor Hillel Rogoff, October 16, 1952:

"When Judge Irving Kaufman passed the death sentence on the Rosenbergs, the Jewish Daily Forward wrote that the sentence was too horrible. We have not changed our minds. . . . We express our hope that the president will save the Rosenbergs from the electric chair."

THE NATION,
Article by Arthur Garfield Hays, November 8, 1952:

". . . We may try, but we cannot forget the two young Rosenberg children. . . . It is the detestable death penalty that causes the uneasiness."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL,
Column by Jacob Glatstein, October 30, 1952:

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously damaged this country."

JEWISH DAY,
Editorial, October 30, 1952:

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

THE CHURCHMAN,
(Protestant Episcopalian), in an editorial on December 1, 1952:

"The Churchman feels that the death sentence, in the light of the far milder punishment of more serious offenders than the Rosenbergs, is both excessive and harsh. We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the cause of the United States. . . ."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER [illegible] 1952

The New York Times

JERUSALEM SENDS A ROSENBERG PLEA

20 Religious Leaders Urge Truman Clemency for Pair Condemned as Spies

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18—Twenty prominent rabbis and religious leaders in Jerusalem appealed to President Truman today to exercise clemency on behalf of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The New York couple is under sentence to die in Sing Sing Prison for passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

The petition, sponsored by Jerusalem Committee of the Mizrachi organization, said:

"We can hardly imagine that such sympathy in the world and especially in a glorious country like the United States should act against the interests of the state. At least we are not aware of such an instance in the long history of this Jewish people.

"Similarly, we are not aware of any precedent where a person has been condemned to death in a democratic country for offenses alleged in this case in time of peace."

The rabbis appealed to the President's sense of humanity and pointed out the prisoners could do no further harm if they remained in captivity.

The signatures included officials of the Chief Rabbinate and Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi.

NOTABLES WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP FOR THE ROSENBERGS

U. S. BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY CLAY; NEWCOMER (Rev.); REV. CLARENCE D. HERBERT; HONORABLE SIDNEY SILVERMAN, *Member of Parliament, Great Britain*; PROF. STEPHEN LOVE, *Chairman of Charities and Public Convention of Illinois Supreme Court*; WALDO FRANK, *author*; REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, *Union Chapel of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn*; RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH; DOROTHY DAY, *editor of the Catholic Worker*; RABBI G. GEORGE FOX, *Chicago*; RABBI DR. MEYER SHARFF; DR. GEORGE SARTON, *Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University and President of the International Union of the History of Science*; RABBI FRANKLIN COHN, HONORABLE ROBERT KENNY, *Los Angeles*; DR. W. E. B. DU BOIS, *author*; REV. AMOS MORRIS, *Boston*; REV. STEPHEN FITCHMAN, *Los Angeles*; YIPH SEIFF, *author*; NELSON ALGREN, *author*; A GROUP OF CATHOLIC LAYMEN *associated with the Catholic Worker* (Michael Harrington, Robert Judkins, Morris Cobin, Isidore Paul, Charles McCormack, Roger O'Neill); PROF. ROLAND H. BAINTON, *Yale Divinity School*; DR. PAUL L. WHITNEY, *President and Marshall College*; RABBI ABRAHAM HERWITZ; REV. H. H. LESTER; RABBI L. A. CASSIDING; REV. THOMAS MCCANN; REV. *New York*; REV. CHARLES WHITLAW CAMPBELL, *Albany, N. Y.*, and thousands of others. (*Names of organizations and individuals are given solely for purposes of identification.*)

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Park Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

JOA - 117111 - 12154

BALTIMORE EXHIBIT NO. 6

THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE!

Hundreds of Thousands of Americans are appealing for Clemency!

Their Execution Is Set for the Week of January 12th!

For the first time Americans have been sentenced to death on such a charge!

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were indicted in 1950, charged with giving atomic information to Russia in 1944, when she was our wartime ally. With their co-defendant, Morton Sobell, they protest their innocence to this day. On April 5, 1951 Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case believes there is definitely grave and reasonable doubt about their conviction. But now, with the United States Supreme Court having turned down their request for a review of their conviction, the immediate issue is not their guilt or innocence, or the vindication that time may bring. *The issue now is to save the Rosenbergs from the unjust, un-American, unequal sentence of death. No other Americans, not even convicted traitors like Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, received the death sentence.*

EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEM GUILTY PROTEST THE UNJUST

YOU have read Mr. Pritt's learned and dispassionate analysis of the trial and the evidence as a result of which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg face execution.

To save their lives you must:

1 Write or wire the President at the White House in Washington, asking him to use his powers of executive clemency to spare the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg.

2 Pass this pamphlet on to a friend or to the editor of your newspaper, with the suggestion that it be excerpted as a news story and commented on editorially.

3 Many thousands of dollars are necessary to bring this Appeal to the President to millions of our fellow-Americans. Please send a contribution, check, cash or money order, to the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 6th Ave., New York 18, N. Y. Checks may be made out to JOSEPH BRAININ, Chairman.

4 Write the address below for additional copies of this document to distribute to others who may add their voices to yours in the plea for clemency. They are available at 20 for $1, $5 per 100, $25 per thousand, postpaid.

Nat'l Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case
1050 6th Ave., New York 18, N. Y. BRyant 9-9694

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BALTIMORE EXHIBIT NO. 7

THE ROSENBERG CASE

An Analysis by

D. N. PRITT

World-Famous British Lawyer

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page 1

BALTIMORE EXHIBIT NO.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO URGE
CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
P. O. Box 2521, Arlington Station
Baltimore 15, Md.

December 16, 1952

Dear Friend:

The unprecedented death sentence given Mr. and Mrs. Julius Rosenberg for their alleged crime of espionage shocked the people of our country and the world. The date of their execution is only a month away.

The Baltimore Committee to Urge Clemency for the Rosenbergs is participating in a national campaign to appeal to President Truman for executive clemency. We believe that the question of innocence or guilt should not be the important issue. The important issue is that the punishment exceeds the alleged crime in view of the sentences given to the confessed atomic spies.

In order to reach thousands of our neighbors and friends, funds are urgently needed. It may interest you to know that we attempted to purchase newspaper ads and were refused. Consequently, we must publish thousands of pieces of literature, leaflets, etc., and have money for mailings.

We are also preparing to participate in the National Clemency and Prayer Meeting in Washington, D. C., on January 4th and 5th. We wish to send people to see President Truman personally and to also participate in the Vigil at the White House.

Your cooperation and money is needed. We can save the Rosenbergs from death if thousands do speak out and if we are able to pierce the blackout of the press and bring the facts to the public.

Please send us your contribution by return mail--payable to Mrs. Pauline Boyer, P. O. Box 2521, Arlington Station, Baltimore 15.

Sincerely yours,

Pauline Boyer

Pauline Boyer,
Secretary

P.S. Have you written to President Truman urging clemency? Take a moment TODAY and do so.

RALLY TO SECURE CLEMENCY FOR ETHEL & JULIUS ROSENBERG

at CARNEGIE HALL, 154 West 57th St., New York
SUNDAY EVENING, March 29th, at 8:30 P.M.

Speakers

Dr. Bernard Loomer, Dean Divinity School
University of Chicago

William Harrison, Boston Chronicle

Rev. Kenneth Ripley Forbes Philadelphia

Choral Presentation

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS inc.

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PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
The White House
Washington, D. C.

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

I believe that the death sentence was unusually severe, particularly in view of the milder 10-year sentences given to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, who were convicted of the more serious crime of treason.

I hope that you grant the Rosenbergs Executive Clemency.

Sincerely,

Hundreds of thousands of Americans appeal for clemency

THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE!

HILLEL JOCOFF, Editor
Jewish Daily Forward

[illegible]

FATHER NORTH
Vocational House, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. President:

As a priest I am as much opposed to Communism as anyone. But surely the sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing an atomic secret [illegible] is way out of line with the interest of justice and decency. Can you do something about this death penalty? Surely this would also be a relief from the standpoint of propoganda.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Send a letter, telegram or post card to The President, White House, Washington, D. C. urging him to commute the death sentence for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

1050 SIXTH AVENUE NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

PRESS RELEASE DEC. 2, 1952
RELEASED TO PUBLIC DEC. 10, 1952

F.B.I. AGENT ADMITS GOVERNMENT WITNESS IN ROSENBERG CASE COMMITTED PERJURY

F.B.I. agent John A. Harrington admitted in an affidavit submitted today in U.S. District Court by the U.S. Attorney that Ben Schneider a government witness against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg had committed perjury in his testimony.

This admission came as a result of a defense charge that the prosecution knowingly permitted their witness to testify falsely, that the first time he saw the Rosenbergs since they allegedly ordered passport photographs from him, was the day he testified in court. (The alleged photographs were never produced in court.)

This charge, by defense counsel, was made in a petition submitted before U.S. District Judge Sylvester Ryan in the course of defense motions to set aside the verdict and order a new trial.

The defense also charged that David Greenglass, key witness against the Rosenbergs had given perjured testimony.

Joe Brainin, Chairman of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case said, *"This admission of perjury on the part of a witness, was very significant in judging the credibility of the government's witnesses. Especially since the government admitted to this only after the defense offered information that Schneider was secretly brought to court by the F.B.I. the day before he testified, to familiarize himself with the Rosenbergs."*

The People Speak Out—

On the Rosenberg Case

Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School, Connecticut

"I was shocked when I read that the death sentence had been imposed upon Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and I am glad to have the opportunity of saying a word which might have some influence in altering the sentence. . . . I feel that the sentence is too severe because it is not commensurate with that meted out to others guilty of the same offense. . . . We should by no means allow ourselves to determine life and death in terms of emotions engendered by a succession of disillusionments."

THE CHURCHMAN (Protestant Episcopalian), in an editorial on November 1, 1952:

"The Churchman feels that the death sentence, in the light of the far milder treatment of more serious offenders than the Rosenbergs, is both excessive and cruel. We believe that the execution of these two individuals will only hurt the name of the United States. . . ."

From editorial in the Brooklyn *JEWISH EXAMINER*, October 24, 1952

"The value of the information transmitted to the Rosenbergs by the second-rate electrician David Greenglass, is arguable at best. The Journal of the American Association of Atomic Scientists as well as The Scientific American stated that these 'secrets' were not particularly important.

"German war criminals guilty of ghastly atrocities during World War II, as well as American traitors like Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, escaped the supreme penalty.

"It would seem from the above that the punishment of the Rosenbergs is unduly harsh."

From the *JEWISH WESTERN BULLETIN*, official organ of the Jewish Council of Vancouver

"The Bulletin does not question the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. We do feel, however, that the request for clemency directed to President Truman that he should commute the death sentence imposed on these people, is fully justified. . . .

"Finally, it should be noted that this statement represents the unanimous opinion of the Editorial Committee of this publication."

From lead editorial in the *TORONTO HEBREW DAILY JOURNAL*, November 24, 1952

"It is also important to know that appealing to their president is not only the task of citizens of the United States. It is the duty of all right-minded liberal people in the entire world to let their voices be heard, and to appeal to the president.

"The example of the 22 Rabbis of Israel, who appealed directly to President Truman on behalf of the Rosenbergs, must serve as an example.

"We are of the opinion, that all liberal and progressive people in Canada must join in this appeal and ask President Truman to spare the lives of the Rosenbergs, because where the law is too harsh there is room for compassion. It is human to commit a crime, it is also human to forgive.

"In the case of the Rosenbergs, it is no excessive request that the death sentence not be carried out. Precedents for this are numberless."

D. N. Pritt, London, Queen's Counsel

"I am forced to the conclusion that, even if the conviction of the Rosenbergs had rested on reliable evidence that they had conspired to obtain some information, any sentence expressed by the judge to be based on such inaccurate and unproved assertions as to the importance of the information would have to be set aside on appeal under any procedure which provided for a free review of the sentence by an Appellate Court.

"Unfortunately, the procedure applicable to this case does not provide for such a review, any more than it provides for a consideration of the credibility of the witnesses or the reliability of the evidence. Were the procedure different, it may well be that the whole matter would have been disposed of already. But there is, in effect, no appeal at all to any court from either of the two main defects of this trial, namely, the unreliability of the evidence and the gravely excessive sentence.

"The duty of securing a review on these points thus rests on public opinion throughout the world. After full study, for the reasons which I have expressed above, I must express the view, from a purely professional standpoint, that it would offend against all Anglo-Saxon standards of justice that the convictions, let alone the sentence, of the Rosenbergs should be allowed to stand."

Issued by:

National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT — O

From an editorial in the BOSTON CHRONICLE, November 29, 1952, entitled "Clemency for the Rosenbergs"

"Those of us who recall the relatively light sentences meted out to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally for their treasonable activities during World War II cannot help from considering the death sentence of the Rosenbergs as "cruel and unusual punishment." Their trial was conducted in an atmosphere conducive to the severity of their sentence, the supreme penalty, and in making this observation we are cognizant of its weight without regard to the innocence or guilt of the sentenced persons on the basis of flimsy or substantial evidence."

A letter by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

"My dear Mr. Bloch:*

"Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 17. I have accepted the verdict of the courts in their conviction of the Rosenbergs for violating the espionage laws of our country. The crime of which they have been found guilty is a heinous one and I found no sympathy in my heart for men and women who betray their country. I was especially resentful of the effort that was made to drag in the issue of anti-semitism in this most unfortunate affair.

"However, I believe that the death sentence which has been imposed is unprecedented in the legal annals of our country as a punishment for espionage in peacetime. I believe that our country is strong and great-hearted enough to be merciful. Should, therefore, an appeal be made to the court or to the President of the United States for clemency and for commutation of the death sentence, I am prepared to add my name to such a plea.

"I do not wish any publicity to be given by you to this letter of mine or to my position in this matter. I wish it to be held confidential except for court or presidential use."**

* Emanuel Bloch, defense counsel for the Rosenbergs.

** Rabbi Silver has given permission to reprint this letter in its entirety, in view of the fact that portions of it have previously been published without authorization.

From article entitled "Justice and Compassion for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," by Hillel Rogoff, editor *JEWISH DAILY FORWARD*, November 29, 1952

"Those who are sincerely interested in the fate of the Rosenbergs should know that now there remains but one means by which they can be saved from the electric chair and that is to move President Truman to commute the death sentence to a lesser punishment. And the appeal to the President should be made on the ground of humaneness, compassion and mercy. . . . Now all energies must be exerted toward one goal—to stop the execution. If this should succeed, then those who believe in the possibility of vindicating them can attempt to do so."

THE NATION, article by Arthur Garfield Hays, November 8, 1952

". . . We may try, but we cannot forget the two young Rosenberg children. . . . It is the damnable death penalty that causes the uneasiness."

Mary Van Kleeck, sociologist

"In New York six months ago I spent many hours reading transcripts of testimony and documents of the trial. As a sociologist concerned with public opinion in international relations, I found many evidences that both judge and prosecuting attorney permitted and even intensified the injection into the trial of political issues, which had no bearing on the guilt or innocence of the defendants. May I join with others to take such action as may be possible to prevent these deaths and thus to avert this irremediable disaster in our nation's history."

Dorothy Thompson, *THE WASHINGTON STAR*, April 12, 1951

"The death sentence . . . depresses me . . . in 1944, we were not at war with the Soviet Union. . . . Indeed, it is unlikely that had they been tried in 1944 they would have received any such sentence."

The Rev. John Paul Jones, *N. Y. TIMES*, November 28

"To the Editor of The New York Times:

"The imposing of the death sentence on the two Rosenbergs is, to say the least, a troublesome matter for the conscience of thoughtful people.

"In the first place, even when conceding that the Rosenbergs have been guilty of transmitting information to the Soviet Union, the trial evidence and conduct do not remove all doubts about either the wisdom or justice of inflicting the death penalty. Great stress has been laid that this alleged crime was begun in wartime but equal stress has not been laid upon the fact that it was not connivance with a wartime enemy but with an *ally*. . . .

"While a layman is hardly qualified to comment upon matters of due process it is important to remember that at least some quite capable and disinterested lawyers assert that there were violations. It is hard to dispel the feeling that the mood and temper of the present time have created an atmosphere in which a fair trial has been extremely difficult, if not impossible. . . .

"Commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment will keep the Rosenbergs from doing further harm, will set a quite sufficient example of the dire consequences of subversive acts, and at the same time make it possible to correct an injustice, at least partially, should later evidence or study prove such to be the case."

From editorial in *THE JEWISH DAY*, October 16, 1952

". . . believing in our democratic system of justice and in the just application of our laws, we feel that we are entitled to appeal to the President that he should commute the death sentence."

ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

Max Lerner, *NEW YORK POST*, June 19, 1952

"I agree that the death sentence was unprecedented and harsh."

From editorial in the *JEWISH CHRONICLE*, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 5, 1952

"We believe that President Truman ought to commute the death sentence imposed on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. . . . Justice in the United States must not be more vindictive than in other civilized countries."

Father Frank North, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, in a letter to the President

"Dear Mr. President: As a priest I am as much opposed to Communism as anyone. But surely the sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing on atomic information to Russia while she was our ally is way out of line. In the interests of justice and decency can't you do something about their death penalties? Surely this would also be of value from the standpoint of propaganda."

Rabbi Dr. Meyer Sharff, Brooklyn, N. Y.

". . . As a devout Jew, I revere our country's laws, which carry out the humane principles enunciated in the Torah, and I am reminded that the Declaration of Independence is of one piece with our leader Moses' exhortation: 'Proclaim freedom throughout the land.' Therefore, it is inconceivable to me that in our country a death sentence should be so lightly given, as was the case in the Rosenberg Trial.

From *THE COMMONWEAL*, widely-circulated Catholic weekly, January 9, 1953

"The Rosenbergs were lawfully tried and, at least as far as the letter of the law goes, lawfully sentenced to pay the supreme penalty. Whether they would have received as drastic a sentence had they been tried, say, in 1946 rather than during the cold war, is doubtful.

"Whenever the state takes a life, so final is the step, there must be a certain hesitation in putting the stamp of approval upon the decision. In the case of a political crime, our tradition of political liberty makes one doubly hesitant. It is foreign to our temper as a people and to the spirit of our history to stand in the street calling for blood. . . .

"Alive, the Rosenbergs represent a constant threat to the Communist conspiracy. From hour to hour who can be sure when one or the other of them will not break down and talk? Dead, their secrets die with them. . . ."

JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, column by Jacob Glatstein, October 29, 1952

"One can readily see that America can very well agree not to snuff out the lives of the Rosenberg couple and not to give them the maximum penalty, which our country has never before given anyone in time of peace, and which was not given even to Dr. Klaus Fuchs, who much more directly, scientifically and consciously betrayed his country."

Dr. Rudolf Carnap, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

"Thank you for sending me the affidavit by Professor Bernal in connection with the Rosenberg Case. I have read it with great interest. It confirmed my earlier belief that the Court has greatly overstated the importance of the scientific information contained in the sketches of implosion lenses by David Greenglass, or by any accompanying details which a man with his very limited theoretical background was able to furnish. For this reason I feel that the severity of the sentence is out of proportion to the actual damage which could possibly have been done."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize Winner and renowned nuclear scientist

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. However, accepting the verdict as correct, I am amazed and completely outraged by the unequal punishment which has been given.

"Only the last two took the witness stand and maintained they are innocent and they were convicted on testimony which I do not believe is conclusive beyond a reasonable doubt. If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

From column by Samuel B. Gach, editor and publisher of *THE CALIFORNIA JEWISH VOICE*, November 26, 1952

"If the Rosenbergs are ignited the world will see it as punitive politics; as hysterical fear overriding judgment and justice. The end result would be the stimulation of less trust and less regard for America and the world.

"It is yet not too late to show the world that sanity still prevails in our U.S.A., and that fear is as yet localized and has not spread to epidemic proportions.

"You can still save the two Rosenbergs from brutal murder by wiring President Truman for clemency."

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio

"It is argued that, through the betrayal of atomic secrets by the Rosenbergs, Russia gained a military advantage. That the act alleged of the Rosenbergs imparted to Russia any military advantage has, by no means, been proved. But granted that such advantage for Russia might have ensued, others convicted of the identical crime—Fuchs, Greenglass, Gold, Sobell, Slack, Simons, May, Brothman—have not been sentenced to die: they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. If the death penalty was, in those other cases, not requisite for our national defense, why should it be so regarded in the case of the Rosenbergs?"

January 15, 1953

Dear Neighbor:

We wish to announce the formation of the---

FAR ROCKAWAY CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

As a group of parents in this community it is with horror that we contemplate the electrocution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, making of their two young sons orphans who will have to go through life under the shadow of their parents' fate.

We are not at present concerned with the question of innocence or guilt, but merely in securing commutation of sentence through executive clemency.

Only yesterday, the world-famous and beloved Albert Einstein made his plea to President Truman for executive clemency. In the enclosed folder are the names and statements of prominent people the world over. 1,500 Protestant clergymen today also raised their voices in asking that the lives of the Rosenbergs be spared.

Your letter or telegram to the President may be the turning point in helping to spare these lives.

DON'T DELAY!

WRITE OR WIRE IMMEDIATELY!

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Florence Stadlen,
Secretary

1382 Eggert Pl.

Now in its 168th hour...

THE PRAYER VIGIL AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS!

Only 9 days left before date of execution

"I found the testimony of the Rosenbergs more believable than that of the Greenglasses. . . . If we are going to begin to give the death penalty for espionage, I should like to have it introduced in a case in which the guilt is certain."

DR. HAROLD C. UREY, NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER, FAMED NUCLEAR SCIENTIST.

"I cannot but deplore the death sentence upon the Rosenbergs both in itself and from its inevitable effect upon British and world opinion."

CHARLES E. RAVEN, CHAPLAIN TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.

"I have accepted the verdict of the court. . . . [However] I believe that our country is strong and great-hearted enough to be merciful. Should therefore an appeal be made to the court or to the President of the U.S. for clemency and for commutation of the death sentence, I am prepared to add my name to such a plea."

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

WRITE OR WIRE PRES. TRUMAN TODAY

Ask him to grant executive clemency to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

Issued by: National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case

1050 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9694

170.

MERCY VIGIL HEADQUARTERS
1887 Kalorama Road, N.W.
Washington, D. C.
COlumbia 5-0802

For immediate release
Monday, February 16, 1953

A committee of trade unionists representing the Labor Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs, today issued the following report on their one-day trip to Washington:

"Our committee telegraphed the White House on February 5, requesting an appointment with the President, and on February 15 another telegram was dispatched to confirm our arrival at the White House at 2 p.m. today, February 16. We were met at the White House gate by a Mr. Young, who described his function as "sloughing off groups like this, and expressing the President's regrets". The trade unionists pointed out that they represented over 200,000 workers and objected to being summarily dismissed on the sidewalk. We gave Mr. Young our message to the President, requesting that he reconsider his denial of the Rosenbergs' appeal for clemency.

"Determined to see an official closer to the President, we walked in unannounced to the White House annex and met with a Mr. Blackley, in charge of Public Information under Harold Stassen. We told him that American justice was on trial before the world, that the recent statements by Pope Pius XII were an accurate reflection of the concern by workers all over the world that clemency be granted.

"The delegation then went to the office of the Attorney-General and met with his official representative, Mr. Daniel Lyons. Mr. Lyons is the Pardon Attorney who reviewed the case before President Eisenhower made his decision last week. We asked that the Department of Justice not oppose Defense Counsel Bloch's motion in any court seeking a postponement of the execution date pending his appeal to the Supreme Court. After a thirty-minute discussion, we asked Mr. Lyons what his recommendation to the President had been. He refused to answer.

"The delegates went to Capitol Hill to see their Congressmen and completed their day by joining the round-the-clock Clemency Vigil in front of the White House.

The delegation included members of C.I.O., A.F.L. and Independent unions. Spokesman for the group was Mr. Carl Wise, Trustee of Local 140, United Furniture Workers, CIO. Mr. Wise pointed out that the Labor Committee had received messages of support from the membership and leaders of unions representing hundreds of thousands of workers. Before leaving Washington, the trade unionists issued an appeal to their fellow workers throughout the United States to send messages to President Eisenhower urging reconsideration and further appealed to trade unionists to join the vigil in front of the White House.

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

February 17, 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case today declared that the Appeals Court grant of a stay of execution to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is a "vindication of the spirit of justice and mercy that has moved millions of people at home and throughout the world to save the lives of the Rosenbergs."

David Alman, Executive Secretary of the Committee declared: "The court has confirmed that the Rosenbergs are entitled to an appeal to the Supreme Court. Millions have long contended that there are grave and serious doubts in the case which demand reconsideration. In light of this and the Rosenbergs' insistence that they are innocent we believe it is obligatory for the Supreme Court to grant a new trial."

"The stay of execution," Alman continued, "is a partial victory which must now be developed through renewed public sentiment into a guarantee that the shadow of death be removed from over the heads of the Rosenbergs forever. The conscience of the world, expressed in the clemency appeals of millions of people, including religious, scientific, trade-union and other leaders, stands solidly behind the court's decision, and is the force which will guarantee that full justice will ultimately be done."

Alman urged additional hundreds of community representatives to swell the Clemency Pilgrimage which the Committee has already called for Washington, D. C., this Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23 and 24.

"The Clemency Pilgrimage now takes on added importance," Alman declared. "There must not be a moment's let-up in the efforts to obtain expressions for justice from hundreds of thousand of Americans who have still not spoken out, in spite of their sympathies. The people of the United States and the rest of the world have stayed the hand of the executioner. Now they must see that the light of justice pierces the bars."

Alman noted that the FBI has already admitted perjury by an important witness in the case, and that the Appeals Court, in a previous ruling, declared the actions of Irving Saypol, the original prosecuting attorney against the Rosenbergs,

MORE

were "reprehensible." The same court, at that time, stated that if a demand for a new trial had been made while the original trial was going on, it should have been granted.

"The case against the Rosenbergs is riddled with holes," Alman added. "The Rosenbergs have never stopped maintaining they are the innocent victims of a miscarriage of justice. Scientists Harold Urey and Albert Einstein and others have declared they did not believe the testimony of the Greenglasses, which was the sole basis of the Rosenbergs' conviction. Our Committee is absolutely confident that the Rosenbergs can now win a new trial and that more millions of people will insist that this be done."

# # # #

January 19, 1953

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

for immediate release

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
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LEAGUE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN OF FRANCE ASKS CLEMENCY FOR ROSENBERGS

The world renowned League of the Rights of Man in France, has added its voice to the world cry for clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The Central Committee of the League declared in a long letter to then President Truman that it was "unanimous in asking of you clemency..."

The League, composed of many foremost French jurists, public officials, and outstanding intellectuals and professionals, including a former attorney general of France, asks for clemency because it has doubts concerning the charges of espionage against the Rosenbergs and because it "rejects the irreparable effects of capital punishment."

In its letter, Dr. Sicard de Plauzoles, the League's president noted that it was "founded in 1898 in the course of the Dreyfus case, at the darkest hour of that case, just after Zola's trial, and following Zola's example, to defend truth and justice."

Its committee is today comprised of men of the highest character, including President Paul-Boncour, former head of the French Government for many years; the outstanding French representative in the League of Nations and one of the founders of the United Nations; President Rene Cassin, Vice-President of the highest French administrative jurisdiction and, with Mrs. Roosevelt, one of the most eminent members of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; M. Georges Boris, state counselor and permanent delegate from France to the Social and Economic Council of the U.N.; M. Andre Boissarie, former Attorney General of France; M. Francis Perrin, professor at the College of France and director of French atomic research. These names alone are a guarantee of the high purpose, the generosity of heart and scruples of conscience which motivate the actions of the League.

more

The League declared it did not know what the political beliefs of the Rosenbergs were "but, whatever these opinions, the League, faithful to the American and French declarations on the Rights of Man and to the Universal Declaration proclaimed in 1948 by the U.N.O., does not believe in indictment for beliefs ..."

"All human judgment, even the most scrupulous, is susceptible to error," continued Dr. Plauzoles. "What the League knows of the Rosenbergs' trial leaves it doubtful as to the validity of the charge."

Meanwhile, Walter Kerr of the Paris Bureau of the Hearld-Tribune wrote on January 13th that "the vast majority of non-Communist newspapers in France continued to urge today that the death sentences of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg --- be commuted to life imprisonment." Among those noted by Kerr are "Le Figare," "L'Aurere," and "Franctireur

And in Canada the Ottawa Citizen in an editorial on January 9th, noted that "No proof was advanced for allegations that Rosenberg received sketches from Greenglass, knew Russian agents, or spent money freely in night clubs while recruiting spies. The judge appeared often to take the side of the prosecution, and in the end declared the Rosenbergs had given the Russians the atom bomb, caused the Korean war, and might be the cause of the deaths of millions of innocent people."

"Is it small wonder in view of these circumstances," asks the Citizen, "that many thoughtful people in the U.S. and elsewhere feel that clemency should be extended?"

# # # #

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28 1953

Dr. Zachariah Chafee, Jr., noted authority on constitutional law and a professor at Harvard University, has supported clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case announced today. Dr. Chafee's appeal was made during a lecture on "Freedom of Speech" at Memorial Hall, University of North Carolina, during the week of January 18.

"There is some doubt of their guilt; they should live. Other people have committed worse offenses and have been allowed to live," declared Dr. Chafee.

The noted legal expert also declared that Federal Judge Irving Kaufman's statement that the Rosenbergs were responsible for the death of U.S. soldiers in Korea was questionable.

Meanwhile, the January 6th Daily Republic of Mitchell, South Dakota, takes issue with "a committee of prominent Protestants, Catholics and Jews..." who charge the Daily Republic "in an all-embracing manner, saying that anyone who has joined in organized campaigns for clemency for the Rosenbergs has 'knowingly or unwittingly given assistance to Communist propaganda.' "

The Daily Republic concludes that "Americans must continue to stand up for what they think is right..."

In the midwest, the January 15th University of Minnesota Daily calls for commutation of the death sentence to "life imprisonment..."

The Christian Century for January 14th declared that ten years from now "we think that by that time the sentence of death will be deplored as needlessly severe, particularly when contrasted with the sentences imposed on men who had far more to do with passing along atomic secrets to the Russians."

The New Religious Frontier of December 11th, issued by The Church of the People, Seattle, Washington, declared that "to put the Rosenbergs to death for their crime puts a very considerable strain on our conscience. We are troubled and will be more troubled if the sentence is carried out."

more

Finally the Jewish News Letter for January 19th, notes that "several petitions urging clemency for reasons of justice and humanitarianism, signed by prominent American personalities including Albert Einstein, Nobel-prize winner Harold C. Urey, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, and many other voices were heard urging the same measure for entirely different reasons." The News Letter notes that "well-known conservatives..." and other such quarters in France have cautioned against the execution of the Rosenbergs and concludes, "in other words, from the point of view of the Western camp in the cold war, political expediency in this case seems to coincide with the requirements of humanity and mercy."

# # # #

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

January 20 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT URGES CLEMENCY FOR ROSENBERGS.
WISCONSIN CATHOLICS ALSO BACK PLEA

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt said that she felt "there is a great deal of hope..." that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg will win executive clemency "on humanitarian grounds alone." Mrs. Roosevelt was speaking to a press conference at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, it was learned by the National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs.

"Never before have we executed anyone for treason in this country in time of peace," Mrs. Roosevelt declared. "We might say we would like to substitute the life sentence on humanitarian grounds. I think there is a great deal of hope that this will be done."

In Milwaukee, the LaCrosse Register, official organ of the LaCrosse Catholic Diocese, urged clemency for the Rosenbergs in an editorial on January 15th "...Our national interests as well as the ends of justice..." would be best served by executive clemency being granted at this time.

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Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1953

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAR EASTERN CHRISTIANS AND OTHERS ASK FOR ROSENBERGS' CLEMENCY

Nineteen Christian missions in Wuhan, China have joined in a public statement calling upon the President of the United States to grant clemency to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, it w as announced today by the National Committee To Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs. "We are at one with the American who a re defending peace and democracy", declared the missions on January 11, "and pledge our full support in their just striving to obtain the r elease of the Rosenbergs."

Following this the distinguished theologian Wu Yao-Tsung, a leader of the Christian Church in China delcared in an interview, "I hope all true Christians in the U.S.A. and all other countries will raise their voices"..in the effort to secure clemency for the Rosenbergs.

In Peking it was learned that newspaper reading groups, women's organizations, trade union branches and other organizations are widely discussing the Rosenberg case.

In Calcutta, India, it was learned that the Indian Peoples' Theatre Association, the Progressive Writers' and Artists' Association, the All-Indian Kisan Sabha and the Trade Union Congress have sent cables to the President of the United States urging clemency.

Unity, the organ of the Indian Peoples Theatre Association sent a small contribution to the National Committee "...as a very small token of the solidarity of all Indian writers and artists who stand for freedom from fear and human dignity, in your efforts to secure justice for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

Meanwhile in Canada a group of citizens from Sudbury, Ontario, in Ottawa to participate in the vigil for the Rosenbergs, told the United States Ambassador "many people who have always admired the great American traditions for justice and mercy are troubled with t he thought that a grave error may be committed if the d eath sentence is carried out in their case. An act of clemency at this time would renew the faith and hope of humanity in the great name of the United States of America."

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
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BRyant 9-9694

January 28, 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMITTEE REPLIES TO REQUESTS THAT IT TAKE POSITION ON MATTERS OTHER THAN ROSENBERG CASE

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case has from time to time received requests that it take a position on matters other than the Rosenberg case.

In the year and a half of its existence this committee has steadfastly declined to comment on matters other than those connected directly with the Rosenberg case. The wisdom of this policy is proved by the fact that the men and women who compose this committee have never felt constrained to agree on matters outside the Rosenberg case. They have always been of one mind in respect to this case, even though they differ in their political, social, and economic creeds.

In this connection Mr. Joseph Brainin, the chairman of our National Committee, has asked that it be made clear that his reply to a request for comment on a Russian case involving Solomon Mikhoels was made as an individual and was not made in the name of the committee.

We have always respected the right of committee officers to speak their minds on any issues other than the Rosenberg case providing that they did so as individuals and not in the name of the committee nor in their capacity as officers of the committee.

Mr. Brainin made this clear in his statement of January 28th.

Mr. Brainin urged renewed efforts by the many thousands of Americans who have so far kept the Rosenbergs from execution by their unprecedented campaign for executive clemency. Mr. Brainin further urged that the spirit of common interest and aim around the issue of clemency, which united so many persons of diverse beliefs and positions, continue to prevail.

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

February 5, 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRITISH M.P. DENOUNCES FAKE NEWS STORY ON ROSENBERGS

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case today made public a letter from the Honorable Sidney Silverman, Laborite Member of the British Parliament and one of the leaders of the world Jewish Congress vehemently denying that he has in anyway changed his support of clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, as implied in a New York Post story on January 7.

In a letter to Emanuel Bloch on January 13, Mr. Silverman denounced as "shameful" and "dishonest" the Post's story which was angled to imply that he had, before a World Jewish Congress forum in London, supported the trial of and the death sentences against the Rosenbergs.

Mr. Silverman's letter underscored his opinion that the death penalty against the Rosenbergs for alleged conspiracy to commit espionage was "hysterically extravagant..." and that to "carry out the capital penalty would be to indict not the Rosenbergs but the United States Government."

The text of Mr. Silverman's letter was as follows:

COPY

13th January 1953

"Dear Mr. Bloch,

I am shocked and distressed beyond words by your letter and enclosure of the 8th. instant, which has reached me only this morning. It reveals about as shameful a bit of dishonest reporting as I have come across for a long time.

On 6th January I took part in a public Forum in London about the Prague trials. I said that they were certainly not anti-Semitic; that they were certainly anti-Zionist ; that they might therefore lead to unintended anti-Semitic results. In passing, I said, that it would be as wrong to infer anti-Semitism merely from the fact that many defendants were Jews and were described as Jews as it would be to infer anti-Semitism in the Rosenberg case merely because the Judge, both counsel, both defendants, and the chief prosecuting witness were all Jews whereas there was not a single Jew on the Jury.

So far from intending to imply any support for the hysterically extravagant sentence on the Rosenbergs (even if guilty, which seems to me very doubtful) I had only the previous evening been the principal speaker at a large and very crowded public protest meeting which apparently the United States press did not report at all! In the course of my speech I said that I did not think a conviction on the evidence could have been obtained or held on appeal in the United Kingdom and that to carry out the capital penalty would be to indict not the Rosenbergs but the United States Government.

I remain of that opinion and you may make such use of this letter as you wish.

Yours very truly,

Sidney Silverman

P.S. I have talked to the United Press News Editor here this morning. He informs me that he has no record and has no knowledge of any such report and that in any case the New York Post does not take the U.P. service."

S.S.

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Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

January 26, 1953

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9624

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Washington Post for January 23, carries a reply from Henri Pierre, political writer of Le Monde, Paris newspaper, to a Post editorial criticizing Le Monde's support of clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Entitled, "Le Monde Buys a Hoax" the Post editorial of January 4 as paraphrased in the January 23 editorial accompanying Pierre's letter, charged that Pierre has "...fallen for the world-wide Communist inspired propaganda campaign..."

In his reply, M. Pierre put the question to the Post that "although the judge chose to affirm his impartiality at the end of the debates, were not his references throughout the whole trial to the communistic opinions of the Rosenbergs of such a nature as to influence the jury?"

The French journalist questions the harsh nature of the death sentence and concludes "as to the extreme severity of the penalty, it is sufficient to read the judge's summation before the sentence to realize that he wanted to make a terrible example of the Rosenbergs as individuals, and I repeat that it has not been irrefutably established that they were the leaders of a plot or that they transmitted vital information."

In Illinois, the Chicago Daily News editorializes that "a different judge might have considered 30 years or 20 years sufficient penalty, and probably would not have been critized if he had.

One reason President Eisenhower might commute the sentences, holds the News is that "...a long prison sentence is adequate anyhow in view of the others imposed."

In New York support for the Labor Rally for Clemency February 4th at the Palm Garden 306 West 52nd St. continued to grow as the cause of clemency for the Rosenbergs is taken up with wider sections of unionists and their leaders.

Martha Schlamme and Leon Bibb, singers, will entertain the rally. Admission is 50 cents including tax and tickets may be had at 1050 Sixth Avenue.

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
BRyant 9-9694

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 6, 1953

The Hon. James H. Wolfe, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah, from the Capital at Salt Lake City, Utah addressed a letter to the President of the United States asking for a commutation of the death sentences imposed on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg it was learned today by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.

Chief Justice Wolfe said in part, "From the standpoint of Justice, I think the conviction rests on too shaky a foundation. No need for me to detail the risk of accepting in a conspiracy charge evidence of confessed conspirators who stand to profit from turning State's evidence.....On the side of mercy, never before has the death sentence been imposed on those guilty of espionage in times of peace, especially where it seems probable that, in spite of Judge Kaufman's expressed concern at the effect of the information supposed to have been passed on, it did not do the slightest good for the USSR.....

"In view of that doubt, there should not be carried out a sentence which will work an irretrievable result if future developments show the pair were innocent."

The full text of Chief Justice Wolfe's statement follows;

Dear Mr. President

I am writing this letter to ask you to exercise clemency in the case of the death sentences given by the Honorable Irving R. Kaufman to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

"From the standpoint of justice, I think the conviction rests on too shaky a foundation. No need for me to detail the risk of accepting in a conspiracy charge evidence of confessed conspirators who stand to profit from turning State's evidence. This conviction was obtained during a period of mounting hysteria by evidence of witnesses whom the law considers unreliable because of the very hope of reward or mitigation. Besides the general hysteria generated by fear and hate of communism which was interjected into that trial, it appears that there may have been the influence of anti-Semitism in a reverse sort of way. The trial judge was Jewish, the prosecutor was Jewish, and the defendants in the conspiracy trial were mostly, if not all, Jewish. In the light of the fact that many of the idealistic Jews, especially in New York City where the trial was held, have been tinged with leanings toward Communism, there may have been unconsciously an effort to lean over backward against the Jews who were accused of obtaining espionage information for the benefit of the U.S.S.R. I think the likelihood that the sketches made by Greenglass (who had no more than a high school education, which included no course in physics) said by him to have illustrated material picked up from overheard conversations at Los Alamos while he worked as a mechanic could hardly have done the great damage feared by Judge Kaufman. Atomic scientists tell us that it would take pages of fine print material and accurate information to intelligently expound the structure of the atomic bomb.

On the side of mercy, never before has the death sentence been imposed on those guilty of espionage in times of peace, especially where it seems probable that, in spite of Judge Kaufman's expressed concern at the effect of the information supposed to have been passed on, it did not do the slightest good for the U.S.S.R. Of course, if the Rosenbergs were guilty, that would be legally irrelevant, but it certainly would not be irrelevant in the matter of fixing the penalty of death. To further detail elements which make the conviction untrustworthy would only prolong the length of this letter.

Under these circumstances, it seems utterly disproportionate to the offense for this couple with two young children to be put to death. There seems to be doubt as to their guilt. In view of that doubt, there should not be carried out a sentence which will work an irretrievable result if future developments show the pair were innocent.

I join the host of persons who have petitioned you to commute these sentences. I hope you will take this opportunity to perform that deed of mercy before the termination of your term."

Sincerely,

James H. Wolfe

(letter written to Emanuel H. Bloch by James H. Wolfe, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah)

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter to ask you to exercise clemency in the case of the death sentences given by the Honorable Irving R. Kaufman to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

"From the standpoint of justice, I think the conviction rests on too shaky a foundation. No need for me to detail the risk of accepting in a conspiracy charge evidence of confessed conspirators who stand to profit from turning State's evidence. This conviction was obtained during a period of mounting hysteria by evidence of witnesses whom the law considers unreliable because of the very hope of reward or mitigation. Besides the general hysteria generated by fear and hate of communism which was interjected into that trial, it appears that there may have been the influence of anti-Semitism in a reverse sort of way. The trial judge was Jewish, the prosecutor was Jewish, and the defendants in the conspiracy trial were mostly, if not all, Jewish. In the light of the fact that many of the idealistic Jews, especially in New York City where the trial was held, have been tinged with leanings toward Communism, there may have been unconsciously an effort to lean over backward against the Jews who were accused of obtaining espionage information for the benefit of the U.S.S.R. I think the likelihood that the sketches made by Greenglass (who had no more than a high school education, which included no course in physics) said by him to have illustrated material picked up from overheard conversations at Los Alamos while he worked as a mechanic could hardly have done the great damage feared by Judge Kaufman. Atomic scientists tell us that it would take pages of fine print material and accurate information to intelligently expound the structure of the atomic bomb.

On the side of mercy, never before has the death sentence been imposed on those guilty of espionage in times of peace, especially where it seems probable that, in spite of Judge Kaufman's expressed concern at the effect of the information supposed to have been passed on, it did not do the slightest good for the U.S.S.R. Of course, if the Rosenbergs were guilty, that would be legally irrelevant, but it certainly would not be irrelevant in the matter of fixing the penalty of death. To further detail elements which make the conviction untrustworthy would only prolong the length of this letter.

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I join the host of persons who have petitioned you to commute these sentences. I hope you will take this opportunity to perform that deed of mercy before the termination of your term."

Sincerely,

James H. Wolfe

(letter written to Emanuel H. Bloch by James H. Wolfe, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
1050 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York
BRyant 9-9694

February 9, 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Many outstanding Catholic clergymen and laymen of France have voiced support of clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Among these are Marc Beigbeider, famous writer and critic; Albert Beguin, executive editor of co-manager of Figaro; Father Henri Berger, Gilbert de Chambrun, Deputy; General Petit, Senator; Jean Lenoir, editor-in-chief La Quinzaine; Dr. Bourguignon, Academy of Medicine; Stanislas Fumet, co-director, Liberte de l'Esprit.

Among the Catholic publications that have urged clemency are Esprit, La Quinzaine, Temargnage, and Chretien.

In Belgium, the leader of the Senate wrote to U.S. Ambassador Myron C. Cowen in Brussels confirming a letter to the White House declaring "fifty non-Communist members of Parliament and other public officials or leaders of trade unions ask you as one of your duties as President to commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

A number of Belgian Socialists have supported clemency including Senators Briot, Cornez, Buterne, Flemme, Lagrois, Machtens, Maserael, Moulin, Pentus, Jeanne-Emile Vandervelde, and Van Hoeveld. Also Congressmen Deltenre, De Kinder, Demetz, Demoitelle, Hicguet, Jacques, and Vinck.

Others are G. Debunne, H. Jansen, C. Bogaert, C. Crevecoeur, G. Devaux, M. Van de Moortel, P. Stevens, R. Berlin, Lescille, A. Voneche, P. Morell, J. Gilis, D'helt, Notreman, Delancyer, Valkeners, Cockelbergs, Kerkhofs, A. Charlier, G. Premer, Demaret, Haussens, L. Campion, D. Veldekens, M. Vermeulens, L. Briot, A. Resimont.

Other clemency backers include Charles Gheude, honored permanent Congressman, Ed Andre, Municipal Councillor and founder of the International Union of Lawyers, and councillors Losson and Geerts.

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LABOR COMMITTEE TO SECURE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS
1050 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York

February 8, 1952

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVEN HUNDRED AT LABOR RALLY URGE CLEMENCY FOR ROSENBERGS

More than 700 people at the first labor sponsored rally for clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg unanimously adopted a resolution urging President Eisenhower to grant executive clemency to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. The meeting sponsored by the Labor Committee for Clemency for the Rosenbergs was held February 4th, at Palm Garden in New York City, a historic spot of labor gatherings.

The resolution among other things declared, "throughout the world people are watching to see if the principles of mercy, humanity, and equal justice will prevail in the United States. As members of labor unions which seek to maintain and extend American democracy and liberty, we too urge that these principles prevail, and that you, therefore, commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Chaired by Leon Straus, executive secretary of the Furrier Joint Board, the meeting heard some legal aspects of the case from Victor Rabinowitz, labor lawyer; Dr. John Codington, research scientist, and executive board member of the New York Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers; Leon Beverly, President of Local 347, United Packinghouse Workers, Chicago; Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell who was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in Alcatraz at the same time the Rosenbergs were sentenced to death; and Abe Weisburd, secretary of the Labor Committee.

Early in the meeting, Mrs. Sphie Rosenberg, mother of Julius was given a standing ovation as she was escorted to the platform.

The most moving part of the night was the short remarks of Mrs. Sobell was declared "I have 30 years to work day and night for the freedom of my husband, but there is so little time to save Julius and Ethel."

Strauss warned the unionists that the same conditions that convicted and doomed the Rosenbergs to death were also aimed at underming the ability of the unions to carry out the will of the working people.

Rabinowitz recalled the trial and execution of Sacco and Vanzetti a generation ago under conditions of hysteria similar to those surrounding the Rosenbergs. He noted the statement of Dr. Harold C. Urey that the testimony of the Rosenbergs was "more believable" than that of David Greenglass, Mrs. Rosbenberg's brother who confessed spying and implicated his sister and her husband thereby winning himself a comparatively mild sentence. The noted attorney compared the reactionary newspaper demands that the Rosenbergs "confess" to the last scene of the current Broadway play "The Crucible" when during the New England witch trial the judge demands that the character John Proctor confess and sign a statement that he's a witch.

Urging the audience to get into the fight as individuals and seeks appeal from their unions and friends, Rabinowitz, declared "let it not be said that because you failed to write a letter or send a wire, the Rosenbergs died."

Dr. Codington, discussing some of the scientific aspects pointed out the Greenglass who "failed all science courses at Brooklyn Polytechnic and in view of his background accomplished quite a bit" when he, according to his testimony that convicted the Rosenbergs remembered enough details about the atomic bomb to pass on information to the Rosenbergs. Codington pointed out that "the information alleged to have been passed on was neither secret nor of much aid to a foreign nation...." and quoted the Smythe Report that "the principles used were well known..."

"Scientists" Codington declared, "have a duty to speak out as they are in a position to evaluate the facts of this case."

Lucy Beverly who traveled from Chicago to address the rally urged all unions to appeal for clemency because "the Rosenbergs are victims of the same kind of hysteria which is always used against the unions." A veteran of many labor struggles Beverly cited the case of Harold Ward, Negro unionist recently freed of murder charges in Chicago, and declared "it was the unity of labor and working people that won Ward's freedom and the same thing hold true in the Rosenberg case. The unions have got to get together and fight for the Rosenbergs."

"This case is important to the Negro people", Beverly declared, "and I urge them to get in this case and help save the Rosenbergs."

Weisburd announced that on February 16, a national delegation of trade union leaders will go to Washington D. C. and visit the White House and the Department of Justice carrying appeals for clemency.

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
1050 Avenue of the Americas
BRyant 9-9694

January 21, 1953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFLUENTIAL ISRAELI PAPER ASKS CLEMENCY FOR ROSENBERGS; OTHER FOREIGN SUPPORT GROWS

The Jerusalem Post of Tel Aviv, influential Israeli paper editorially called for clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, in its Jan. 7 issue. Discussing the implications of the death sentences facing the Rosenbergs the Post declared "a wave of protests is sweeping the civilized world at the severity of the sentences..."

The Post declared, "democracy's cause is not so desperate that it must act with irretrievable ruthlessness and exact extreme penalties which can never afterwards be mitigated or revoked. It is for this reason that humane opinion today looks to the President of the United States to commute the capital sentence on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, marked out to bear a burden of punishment far beyond the heinousness of their crime."

Meanwhile, in Tel Aviv prominent cultural persons urged clemency among whom were, the noted composer Paul Ben-Haim, the actress Hannah Rovina, Mr. George Singer, Mr. Moshe Smilansky, Professor Hugo Bergman, Professor Martin Buber, Dr. David Werner Senator, Ya'acov Fichman, and Yitshak Gruenbaum.

In Paris, a group of 150 leading lawyers expressed "great feeling" for clemency for the Rosenbergs.

While the All-China Federation of Scientific Societies and the All-China Association for Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge cabled the White House urging clemency.

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LABOR COMMITTEE TO SECURE CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

1050 Sixth Avenue New York City 18 BRyant 9 9683

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release Jan. 20 1953

The Labor Committee to Secure Clemency for the Rosenbergs announced that Local 1782, A.F. of L., Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of Newark, New Jersey, directed that a telegram be sent to Washington urging the President to grant executive clemency to the Rosenbergs.

The telegram, signed by Albert Laderman, President; Philip Israel, Financial Secretary; and Irving Simon, Recording Secretary, urged the President to commute the sentence because of the impact on world opinion concerning the case, and because of the "unprecedented severity" of the penalty. It also pointed out that "many Americans believe serious questions about the case still remain unanswered."

The Labor Committee also announced that Local 523, United Electrical Workers of Welland, Canada, representing three thousand members, voted unanimously to send a communication to Washington urging clemency.

# # # # #

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

January 20 1953 For immediate release

ROSENBERG CLEMENCY APPEALS SPREADING IN NATIONAL PRESS

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, issue of January 11th, carries several letters urging clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. They are part of nearly a half page of pro-and-con letters on the subject.

The January, February, March issues of Message to Israel declares: "We have written to the President appealing to his senses of humanity and fairness, asking that he commute this death sentence to life imprisonment. Prayer is also being offered that an opportunity will be afforded us to help this couple in spiritual ways, especially with a view that they be visited with God's great salvation."

[illegible] S. Grants, [illegible] for the [illegible], [illegible] the question and [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] ... it is a [illegible] the consequences must be [illegible] observed."

In its editorial for December 31, the Saratoga-Saratogian raised a number of questions concerning the case. "This is the first time in American history that the death penalty has been assessed in peace time for an offense of this nature. Will American security and American morale gain or lose by beginning it now?"

And from the McKeesport, Pa. News comes the editorial admission that "...the question of the Rosenbergs continues to haunt our consciences. Should they be killed as the penalty for their crime? The courts have decreed so and in accordance with the statutes. Still, in the normality of American thought there arises the vision of a father and mother and two young boys."

# # # #

enclosure

Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

JOSEPH BRAININ
Chairman

DAVID ALMAN
Executive Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 28, 1953

The Negro Elks have asked President Eisenhower to commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg it was announced today. The plea was made by W.C. Hueston, Grand Secretary of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World in a letter to the President, dated Jan. 23, from Washington, D. C.

"I am not going into the guilt or innocence of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg but I am joining in with the petition to commute this sentence to life imprisonment or a lesser term," wrote Mr. Hueston.

"It seems to me", the fraternal leader continued, "that the United States of America could lessen the harshness of their sentence in keeping with the punishment dealt out by other countries for similar crimes."

The Elks organization numbers among its leaders many of the most influential Negro Republicans of the nation, including Mr. Hueston. The late J. Finlay Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler was prominent in Republican politics for a quarter of century before his recent death.

The Elks support for clemency, follows the recent appeal of Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, noted and venerable Negro woman leader and educator.

Mrs. Terrell's plea was made to former President Truman, and she declared," I do not know whether they are guilty or not. I am not an expert on atomic science, but I do know that many persons whose knowledge and devotion to this country I respect deeply do believe there is some doubt about their guilt. Many more devoted American's think that even if they are guilty, death in the electric chair is a punishment too severe...As one who has lived richly in America, who loves America and respects America, I plead with you Mr. President, to stay the executioner and let the Rosenbergs live."

While the Elks plea for clemency was the most recent and influential from the Negro people, it is recalled that the Baptist Minister's Conference of Washington, D. C. urged the former President to "temper justice with mercy in the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Since no one has ever paid with life for the crime of which they stand guilty, it is our prayer that these two be spared the supreme penalty."

The Negro Baptist Minister's organizations of Newark, New Jersey and San Francisco have also made pleas for executive clemency.

While in New York the Rev. James H. Robinson of the Church of the Master, and the Rev. O. Clay Maxwell, of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, joined with 1,500 other Protestant clergymen in appealing for clemency. The Rev. Charles L. Carrington of Queens, New York, and the Rev. Mother Lena Stokes of Harlem have urged clemency.

Earlier the Boston Chronicle, Negro weekly for Nov. 29, 1952 declared editorially, "those of us who recall the relatively light sentences meted out to Tokio Rose and Axis Sally for their treasonable activities during World War II cannot help from considering the death sentence of the Rosenbergs as "cruel and unusual punishment."

And finally, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois addressed an outdoor rally at Straus Square, on New York's Lower Eastside on Jan. 8th in behalf of the Rosenbergs. He also signed a brief amicus curiae in their behalf which among other things declared, "we firmly believe, as the moral sense of mankind has agreed for centuries that it would be far better than ten guilty persons escaped punishment than that one couple, if innocent, should be any legal mischance, be sent to their deaths."

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You are cordially invited to attend a

Clemency Dinner

under the auspices of

THE ROSENBERG CLEMENCY COMMITTEE

Guest Speaker

HON. SIDNEY SILVERMAN

Member of Parliament

London, England

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1953, 7:00 P.M.

HOTEL CAPITOL

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"I urge you to reconsider your refusal to commute the death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Together with nearly 2300 other clergymen, I signed a letter asking for executive clemency. . . . All of us as pastors, are in intimate touch with our people; it is fair to conclude that our opposition to the death sentence is shared by a much larger number of conservative and thoughtful citizens."

DR. BERNARD M. LOOMER
Dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School

Dinner Chairman
PROFESSOR STEPHEN S. LOVE

Dinner Treasurer
SARAH LICHTENBERG

Dinner Secretary
DR. MORTIMER RICHARD CAMIEL

Dinner Committee

REVEREND WALTER BENNETT
LEON BEVERLY
RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH
PROFESSOR ARTHUR K. DAVIS
EARL B. DICKERSON
DR. ARNOLD B. DONAWA
WALDO FRANK
REV. J. SPENCER KENNARD, JR.
DR. BERNARD LOOMER
DR. PHILLIP MORRISON
HERBERT PALEY
REV. ANTONIO PERROTA
LEON QUAT
MRS. MARY CHURCH TERRELL

My Guests Will Be:

	NAME	ADDRESS
1		
2		
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DEAR PROFESSOR LOVE:

Please make _____ reservation(s) for me at $25.00 per person for the Clemency Dinner on Wednesday, March 18, 1952, at the Hotel Capitol.

*Name*_____

*Address*_____

(Please make checks payable to Sarah Lichtenberg, Treasurer)

Please list your guests on the reverse side of this card.

PROF. STEPHEN LOVE

HOTEL CAPITOL

8TH AVE. AND 51 ST.

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR CLEMENCY
FOR THE ROSENBERGS

1050 SIXTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-9683

January 21, 1953

Dear Sir and Brother:

You are undoubtedly aware of the attention being paid, throughout the world, to the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and sentenced to death. The Rosenbergs are in the death-house of New York's Sing Sing Prison. Their attorneys have filed a formal plea for Executive Clemency, which is now on the desk of President Eisenhower.

Many prominent figures, in all walks of life, in our own country as well as in other countries, have indicated that one or another aspect of the Rosenberg case is deeply disturbing.

Some have raised questions concerning the due process accorded the Rosenbergs at the trial. Others have raised questions about the reliability of certain witnesses and of the character of the evidence introduced. Still others have protested the severity of the sentence.

Our committee does not defend the actions of anyone involved in espionage. We feel, however, that certain aspects of the Rosenberg case are open to question, and that carrying out the death sentence would not resolve them.

With this in mind, we are taking the liberty of enclosing several reprints of newspaper articles including the statements of professors Albert Einstein and Harold C. Urey, and an analysis of the Rosenberg case by a famous British attorney.

Because a decision on the clemency application of the Rosenbergs may be forthcoming shortly, we respectfully urge that you give this matter your attention. Should you find merit in the arguments for clemency, may we suggest that you communicate your views to President Eisenhower. (Copy to our Committee.)

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Abe Weisburd
Secretary

P.S. The complete trial record and appeal is available. We will forward copies on request.

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The Gazette and Daily

Published daily except Sunday at 31-37 E. King St., York, Pa., by YORK GAZETTE CO
CHARLES M. GITT, President; J. W. GITT, Editor and Treasurer; M. B. REBERT Secretary; JAMES HIGGINS, Assistant Editor; LOUIS F. STONE, Managing Editor.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saturday, January 3, 1953

EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT

Treason is the most serious crime which can be committed against a state. The maximum penalty is death. Charges of treason however are a favorite device of tyrants, despots, would be dictators and morally unscrupulous politicians to stop criticism, eliminate opposition or advance their lust for power and personal aggrandizement.

Our forefathers who knew a good bit about such things—having been charged with treason and threatened with hanging by a tyrant for petty offense—deliberately wrote into the Constitution of the United States provisions relating to treason surrounding the accused with protection against easy conviction.

"Treason," says the Constitution, "against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court."

It would seem to one that so far as crimes related to treason are concerned in which the death penalty can be imposed, it would only be right and proper, or even more so, that the accused should have the same protection as is accorded those charged with treason. For after all those hung for something less than treason are just as dead as those hung for the greater crime of treason itself.

What even we Americans are now doing however is to try persons who can not be convicted of treason, for something we call espionage or conspiracy to commit espionage, find them guilty and sentence them to be hung. Which is the most we could possibly do to them if they were guilty of treason.

And we do this without surrounding those accused of such lesser crimes with the protections they would have if charged with the greater crime of treason.

It does not make sense on any other theory than that it is an ingenious way to get around the Constitution and open the way for possible future tyrants to hang persons without having to do away with the Constitution.

It has already become so bad that an accused might well be in less jeopardy of his life if charged with major treason itself; rather than with some minor treason under some other name.

That is just what is so morally wrong about the Rosenberg case. The Rosenbergs could not have been convicted for treason. That is conceded. So they are charged with conspiracy to commit espionage, found guilty and given the death sentence.

It is not the conviction of the Rosenbergs that is at fault. It is the death penalty for a far less serious crime than treason for which under the Constitution they could not be convicted, the imposition of a sentence that was just as severe as though they had actually been found guilty of treason itself.

It is a sorry state of affairs when such things can happen in United States, fraught with dire danger to our future welfare. It is our honor that is at stake in this Rosenberg case and we are not acquitting ourselves well when we permit fear and hysteria to induce us to use such bad judgment as to kill persons for something less than treason whom our Constitution prevents us from killing for treason itself.

The New York Times

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1953

1,500 CLERGY BACK ROSENBERGS' PLEA

Sign Letter to President Asking Clemency—Reds in Paris Protest at Embassy

Fifteen hundred Christian clergymen have signed an open letter to President Truman requesting executive clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atomic spies.

Their execution has been postponed pending the President's action on an appeal filed last Saturday by the Rosenbergs, who were originally scheduled to be put to death in Sing Sing tonight.

The names of the clergymen who signed the open letter to Mr. Truman were made public yesterday by the Rev. Dr. Jesse W. Stitt, pastor of the Village Presbyterian Church and a former president of the Manhattan division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

Among the sponsors of the letter were the Rev. Dr. James Luther Adams of the Meadeville Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School; the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, executive vice president of the Golden Rule Foundation; the Rev. Dr. Robert Hastings Nichols, professor emeritus of the Union Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Dr. Bernard Loomer, Dean of the Divinity School, Chicago University.

Deny Partisanship

"We are not partisans," the letter reads. "Our plea does not hang on the decision of the Rosenbergs' guilt or innocence, nor the degree of their wrongdoing. We ask you in the spirit of the love which casts out fear to mitigate a punishment of such terrible finality, and which, for the offense, is unique in our history."

This was the letter that the Rev. Dr. John Heuss, rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, refused to sign. On Monday, he announced that he had written Dr. Adams that he considered "the crime which the Rosenbergs were convicted for one of the worst in the annals of mankind."

Pleas on behalf of the Rosenbergs have recently been sent to the White House by a group of close relatives of the convicted couple.

"Time is very short," one of the letters said. "Please give these two young parents of two small children a chance to live so that some day they will be able to prove their innocence. From the time they were first arrested, with no knowledge of the charges, they said they were innocent, and maintain their innocence to this day."

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